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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Sudan

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Contents

		Page
	Introduction	3
I.	Summary of the proceedings of the review process	3
	A. Presentation by the State under review	3
	B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review	6
II.	Conclusions and/or recommendations	13
Annex		
	Composition of the delegation	29

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-fifth session from 2 to 13 May 2016. The review of the Sudan was held at the 5th meeting on 4 May 2016. The Sudanese delegation was headed by the Minister of Justice, Awad Elhassan Elnour Khalifa. At its 14th meeting, held on 10 May 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on the Sudan.

2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Sudan: Albania, Indonesia and Togo.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of the Sudan:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/25/SDN/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/25/SDN/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/25/SDN/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to the Sudan through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Sudan commended the universal periodic review mechanism for its active role in the promotion and protection of human rights and in upholding the values of cooperation, impartiality, transparency and non-politicization. It renewed its commitment to cooperate with all human rights mechanisms. It strove vigorously to promote and protect the human rights enshrined in the constitutional Bill of Rights and safeguarded by national constitutional and legal institutions by implementing policies and programmes, despite the great obstacles and challenges it faced, particularly the unilateral coercive measures imposed since 1997 and armed conflicts since 1955.

6. To prepare the national report, the Sudan established a supervisory committee chaired by the Vice-President of the Sudan. Broad public consultations and dialogue had been conducted since 2011 with all stakeholders, including over 24 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) (70 were directly invited), and 15 workshops were organized at the national and state levels.

7. The Sudan presented a midterm report. It received 160 recommendations: 61 have been implemented and 78 were under implementation.

8. The Sudan referred to its cooperation with the United Nations, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and human rights mechanisms. Over the past four years, it had received over seven visits by the Independent Expert on the

situation of human rights in the Sudan, in addition to visits by several thematic Special Rapporteurs and Representatives of the Secretary-General. It also continued to cooperate in implementing its commitments and recommendations received during the first review.

9. To contribute to the achievement of international and regional peace and security, the Sudan implemented the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, despite the loss of one third of its area following the secession of South Sudan and one fourth of its human and economic resources. The separation of South Sudan created new facts in the human rights area. Peacemaking through dialogue and negotiation was a top priority. The inclusive National Dialogue currently taking place was one of the prominent political and social developments in the country. Its objectives included establishing constitutional, political and societal reconstruction, cooperation and solidarity among citizens to overcome crises; concurrence on a Constitution and legislation that guaranteed freedoms, rights and social justice; and agreement on independent mechanisms for the protection of such rights.

10. About 83 political parties participated in the Dialogue, including a number of armed rebel groups, after the provision of required guarantees and a positive atmosphere conducive for dialogue. The Dialogue was about to conclude and present its outcome.

11. The April 2015 general elections were free and transparent with free public suffrage, supervised by about 259 international and 23,000 national monitors. Over 40 political parties participated in running the elections, representing all political and societal spectra. Nineteen parties won seats in Parliament, with most of the incumbents having occupied positions in the current Government. The percentage of women holding seats in Parliament increased from 25 to 30 per cent and the actual percentage of female members of Parliament was 35.5 per cent.

12. Following up on the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, efforts were continuing to build lasting peace in Darfur, in collaboration with United Nations and African Union partners. During the reporting period, several armed groups joined the peace process, notably after the National Dialogue was convened. Efforts were ongoing for the full implementation of the Doha Document, despite non-fulfilment of their commitments.

13. The Darfur Reconstruction and Development Fund and the Voluntary Repatriation and Resettlement Commission were established. Over 600,000 displaced families were accommodated in 291 villages. A joint action plan was drawn up, involving $1.03 billion for 349 projects covering 11 humanitarian and services sectors. Agreements with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Organization for Migration were also concluded for the implementation of various humanitarian projects in Darfur and other conflict-affected areas, amounting to over $13 million.

14. The Office of the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Darfur Crimes has been provided with legal staff and technical and logistic facilities. Every locality throughout Darfur has a public prosecution office, for a total of 120 such offices, in addition to branches of the Office of the Prosecutor in the region. About 76 criminal cases were reported to the Office during 2015, including charges for murder, crimes against humanity and armed robbery. The situation in most parts of Darfur has been considerably stable. In April 2016, a referendum on the administrative status of Darfur was conducted in compliance with the Doha Document in 1,240 voting centres. Over three million voters participated, representing 90 per cent of registered voters, and 96 international and 1,552 national monitors attended.

15. The constitution drafting process with a view to the adoption of a permanent constitution has started with participation of all stakeholders, including political powers, civil society organizations, academic institutions and various sectors of society. All assistance and support in this respect was welcome to encourage more dialogue at the

grass-roots level. The national dialogue process disclosed a strong collective desire towards keeping the current constitutional Bill of Rights, but with more improvements.

16. The Sudan was working on implementing recommendations concerning accession to international and regional human rights instruments. It acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in 2014, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol), in 2013. Studies on the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) have been completed and the ratification of the two instruments has been initiated within the legislative process. Different societal views surround the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, therefore the State decided to allow for more dialogue among community components, noting that existing legal and institutional frameworks ensured adequate protection and empowerment for women.

17. A legal reform process was initiated in 2011 and 52 new laws have been promulgated further promoting human rights, including the following: Human Trafficking Act 2014, Right to Information Act 2015, Educational Professions Act 2014, Asylum Act 2014, Mining and Mineral Wealth Act 2015, Elections (Amendment) Act 2014, Transparency, Integrity and Anti-Corruption Act 2016, Health Insurance Act 2016, Ombudsman Act 2015 and Criminal (Amendment) Act 2015.

18. The following were under review by competent committees constituted by the Minister of Justice: Press and Publications Act 2009, National Security Act 2010, Criminal Act 1991, Criminal Procedures Act 1991, Evidence Act 1993, Civil Procedure Act 1983 and draft Social Control (Khartoum State) Act 2011. About 60 other laws have been listed for review within the framework of the legal reform programme. Bills on prevention of racial discrimination, compatible with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and on eradication of female genital mutilation have been prepared and were scheduled for the legislative process.

19. The members of the National Human Rights Commission were appointed in 2012 and its executive structure and an independent budget have been adopted. The law establishing the Commission was under review for further reform. Other institutions have been developed or revitalized, including the Judicial and Legal Sciences Institute, the Ombudsman, the National Committee for Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking and the High-level Coordinating Mechanism for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection of Children in Armed Conflict, signed by the Government and the United Nations.

20. The Regional Ministerial Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of Africa was held in Khartoum in October 2014. The declaration of the Khartoum process initiated at that conference was subsequently adopted in Rome in November 2014.

21. The second phase (2012-2017) of the implementation of the National Strategy (2007-2031) and the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (2013-2023) was progressing as planned, with an assessment and a review.

22. Some challenges hindering the full enjoyment and implementation of human rights had been encountered, despite efforts made to overcome them. The main challenge was the unilateral coercive measures imposed since 1997, which have resulted in losses amounting to $1,500 billion. The measures have had devastating effects on the enjoyment of human rights, particularly by vulnerable groups. The rights to health, education, water and sanitation, food, transport and other rights have been seriously impaired.

23. Foreign debt has exacerbated poverty and adversely affected human rights. Although the Sudan has fulfilled all the conditions and qualified for exemption under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, unfair political considerations have delayed the exemption decision.

24. Armed conflicts supported by some members of the international community have created another major challenge. The Government was striving for peace through negotiations. The fully implemented Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement and the Roadmap signed with the African Union High-level Panel on Darfur are indicative of such efforts, but have been refused by the rebels.

25. The Sudan agreed to facilitate access to humanitarian aid by affected persons in accordance with a tripartite agreement between the Government, the United Nations and the League of Arab States, but that was rejected by the armed groups. It called on some States that were hosting armed groups to urge them to join the peace and dialogue process.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

26. During the interactive dialogue, 102 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

27. Spain highlighted the reform of article 149 of the Penal Code, which must be put into practice, and was concerned about the immunities that the security forces enjoyed.

28. Sri Lanka noted the efforts at the institutional and legislative levels to ensure the protection of human rights, including the National Human Rights Commission and the National Action Plan on Human Rights.

29. The State of Palestine welcomed the efforts to promote and protect human rights, despite the difficulties, through the ratification of human rights instruments and education-related measures.

30. Sweden noted the challenges relating to access to justice for women who continued to be subjected to sexual and gender-based violence, particularly in conflict areas.

31. Italy welcomed the measures to combat trafficking in persons and the establishment of committees to study the possibility of acceding to international treaties.

32. Tajikistan welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights, the legislative improvements and the efforts to conserve cultural heritage.

33. Thailand encouraged the strengthening of the education plan and urged cooperation with the international community to enhance access to humanitarian assistance for internally displaced persons.

34. Timor-Leste welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission.

35. Togo welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights and the law to combat human trafficking.

36. Turkey welcomed the achievements regarding the rights to education, the efforts regarding the right to health and the national reconciliation process.

37. Uganda noted the legislative achievements, including the Human Trafficking Act, as well as the challenges faced, including foreign debt and armed conflict.

38. Ukraine acknowledged the constitutional and legislative developments, but was concerned about the verification magnitude of displacement in central Darfur and the delivery of humanitarian aid.

39. The United Arab Emirates appreciated the adoption of legal measures and strategies to protect human rights and requested clarification about the nature of the guarantees of the anti-trafficking law.

40. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland remained concerned by violations in the Blue Nile, South Kordofan and Darfur, the response to armed opposition groups in Jebel Marra and the powers of the National Intelligence and Security Service.

41. The United States of America noted ongoing violations and abuses of human rights and humanitarian law in Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan, including attacks on civilian areas.

42. Uruguay welcomed the measures taken with regard to economic, social and cultural rights and encouraged the redoubling of efforts.

43. Yemen appreciated the adoption of a national legal framework and, among others, the National Action Plan on Human Rights.

44. Zimbabwe welcomed the Human Trafficking Act, the National Human Rights Commission and the National Action Plan on Human Rights.

45. Albania commended the progress made in adopting the Human Trafficking Act and the Act establishing the Educational Professions Council.

46. Algeria welcomed the legal human rights framework, in particular the National Strategy (2007-2031) and the National Action Plan on Human Rights.

47. The Sudan stated that, although the budget for education has been increased, the school dropout rate has not decreased owing to the economic situation in the country. Seventy per cent of the nomadic population were enrolled in schools, an increase from 33 per cent. The budget for the health sector increased from 4 to 9 per cent of the gross domestic product in 2015 and child and maternal mortality decreased.

48. The Sudan reaffirmed that capital punishment against children under 18 years was prohibited by law.

49. A bill on female genital mutilation was introduced in Parliament in 2016 and progammes against female genital mutilation, such as the Salima campaign, continued.

50. Angola welcomed the Human Trafficking Act, the Penal Law and the Election Law.

51. Argentina echoed the concern regarding the difficulties faced by the Sudan as expressed in Human Rights Council resolutions and acknowledged the efforts regarding internally displaced persons.

52. Australia was gravely concerned at violations of human rights in conflict zones and condemned the impunity allowed to perpetrators and the violence against civilians.

53. Austria encouraged the swift implementation of the Action Plan to prevent the recruitment and use of children by government forces and was concerned by violations of humanitarian and human rights law in conflict areas.

54. Azerbaijan noted as positive the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, the National Action Plan on Human Rights and the accession to the Palermo Protocol.

55. Bahrain welcomed the acceptance of the majority of the recommendations from the previous cycle and the measures taken to implement them, despite existing difficulties.

56. Bangladesh praised the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights and the actions to ensure the rights of women. It noted the challenges faced, including foreign debt, sanctions and armed conflict.

57. Belarus welcomed the efforts to eradicate poverty through the creation of social funds and the granting of microcredit and noted the measures taken to strengthen the fight against human trafficking.

58. Belgium welcomed the adoption of the law on transparency, integrity and combating corruption. It encouraged further efforts to protect women rights and expressed concern about reports of intimidation and harassment of human rights defenders.

59. Botswana welcomed the measures taken to protect the rights of women and children. It was concerned at the lack of accountability for crimes committed during the conflict.

60. Brazil welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the India-Brazil-South Africa initiative.

61. Burkina Faso commended the efforts to improve the human rights situation, despite a difficult national political and socioeconomic situation.

62. Burundi commended the legislative and institutional measures taken and the efforts to promote and protect human rights in the health sector, by adopting a five-year strategic plan.

63. Canada was concerned at reports that government forces and affiliated militias were implicated in sexual violence.

64. The Central African Republic welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, the Advisory Council for Human Rights and the Human Rights Committee of the National Assembly and urged an end to impunity.

65. Chad commended the granting of equal rights to women in many spheres of life and the cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and special procedure mandate holders.

66. Chile welcomed the delegation and the presentation of the report and made recommendations.

67. China welcomed the efforts in the areas of trafficking in persons, health, education and anti-corruption and legislative measures and reforms to protect vulnerable groups.

68. Colombia highlighted the commitment to implement the recommendations of the review. It offered to share its experience in human rights areas.

69. The Congo noted the adoption of laws on the right to information, asylum, health insurance and the anti-corruption law.

70. Costa Rica noted the intention to cooperate with the international human rights mechanisms and hoped that the constitutional review incorporated international obligations.

71. Cuba noted the political willingness to implement the recommendations of the review, while noting the challenges faced, such as armed conflict and foreign debt.

72. Cyprus welcomed the Human Trafficking Act and the creation of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking.

73. The Czech Republic welcomed the delegation and the informative presentations and made recommendations.

74. Denmark welcomed the National Human Rights Commission and urged the Sudan to ensure its independence. It noted the need for dialogue among all parties in conflict and the discrimination against women.

75. Egypt welcomed the establishment of the national commission to follow up the recommendations of the universal periodic review and the adoption of human rights-sensitive laws.

76. El Salvador noted the efforts to implement the recommendations of the review and the persistence of challenges.

77. Equatorial Guinea congratulated the Sudan on its legislative measures and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission.

78. Ethiopia welcomed the legislative measures and noted the commitment to establishing the National Action Plan on Human Rights.

79. France welcomed the delegation and made recommendations.

80. Georgia urged the introduction of amendments to the national legislation to ensure the protection of human rights, including the rights of vulnerable groups and the issuing of a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders.

81. Germany was concerned that the participation of civil society was obstructed during the pre-session period of the review and that the first cycle recommendations had not been implemented. It commended the concessions made during the peace negotiations.

82. On the issue of immunities for members of the security services, the Sudan explained that those immunities were procedural, not legal, measures, which could be lifted if a person was accused of a criminal offence. This has been proven by the courts, which have handed down decisions in many cases.

83. Concerning internally displaced persons, 90 per cent of the area was accessible for humanitarian aid, the remaining 10 per cent was hindered by the security situation resulting from ongoing fighting. Over 60 foreign organizations worked in Darfur implementing 168 projects at a cost of $160 million. The Government continued engagement with humanitarian work partners to provide aid and services to internally displaced persons in camps and settlements in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

84. On women's rights and equality, the delegation reaffirmed that the Constitution did not allow for any form of discrimination. Women received equal pay and had equal rights to own property and equal access to education and health.

85. The Sudan emphasized that a zero-tolerance policy on violence against women had been adopted, containing several pillars on, inter alia, establishing institutions charged with coordinating efforts to combating violence against women, facilitating access to justice, appointing female police staff, establishing specialized prosecution offices and launching social outreach campaigns. Concerning allegations of mass rape, the authorities have provided accessible modalities for the protection of women and such allegations have been investigated accordingly by female police officers. Legal aid and psychosocial support have also been provided.

86. Ghana welcomed the legislative measures taken. It noted, however, that a number of core international human rights instruments had not been ratified.

87. Greece welcomed the initiatives to establish various institutions. It expressed concern for human rights violations by the State and armed groups and the restrictions imposed on human rights.

88. Honduras commended the progress made to strengthen institutional infrastructure, including the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission.

89. Iceland, while noting progress made, remained concerned about the overall human rights situation and was alarmed that rape continued to be used as a weapon of war and at the practice of female genital mutilation.

90. India welcomed the legislative and institutional measures to protect human rights and appreciated the measures to protect the rights of women and girls. It encouraged ending the recruitment of children in armed conflict.

91. Indonesia welcomed the establishment of the National Action Plan on Human Rights, the National Human Rights Commission and the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking.

92. Iraq welcomed the adoption of human rights-related laws, in particular with regard to trafficking in persons and corruption.

93. Ireland was concerned about the application of the death penalty, sexual violence against women in conflict areas and restrictions to the rights of human rights defenders in connection with the present review.

94. Switzerland welcomed the Action Plan signed with the United Nations to protect children in armed conflict and expressed concern about the violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law committed by security forces and about persisting impunity.

95. Japan welcomed the progress of the National Dialogue and expressed concern at the denial of humanitarian access in certain areas, restricted political freedom and freedom of expression, arbitrary arrests, executions and torture.

96. Kenya acknowledged the efforts to implement recommendations accepted in 2011 and enquired about measures to maintain equality among religious groups.

97. Kuwait welcomed the human rights legal framework developed since the previous review, including the law against trafficking in persons and electoral laws.

98. Latvia expressed alarm about the situation of women and concern about media restrictions and censorship and the alleged intimidation, harassment and arrest of journalists and civil society activists.

99. Lebanon noted, despite the challenges, the development of a human rights legal framework, including the law against trafficking in persons and electoral and anti-corruption laws.

100. Libya welcomed the positive legal developments with the adoption of the law against trafficking and the anti-corruption law.

101. Liechtenstein expressed concern at the widespread impunity for human rights violations in Darfur. It regretted the continued non-cooperation with the International Criminal Court.

102. Lithuania encouraged the effective implementation of the National Action Plan to end and prevent the recruitment of children in the armed forces.

103. Luxembourg thanked the delegation for the presentation of its report and made recommendations.

104. Madagascar welcomed the adoption of human rights measures such as the anti-trafficking law and the establishment of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking.

105. Malaysia commended the progress made and called for additional attention to the promotion and protection of the rights of women, children and internally displaced persons.

106. Maldives expressed concern about the growing communities of internally displaced persons, owing to armed conflict, communal violence and conflict over resources.

107. Mali welcomed the adoption of laws on freedom of information, the teaching profession council, asylum and health insurance.

108. Mexico recognized the strategy for work and economic empowerment of persons with disabilities. It invited the Sudan to ensure the right of its population to education, regardless of gender.

109. Montenegro expressed concern about sexual violence in conflict areas and enquired about measures to investigate allegations of mass rape, punish perpetrators and provide humanitarian access to civilian populations.

110. Morocco valued the efforts to develop the institutional and legislative framework with the National Human Rights Commission, the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking, the National Action Plan on Human Rights, the anti-trafficking law and the strengthening of mechanisms to protect vulnerable groups and of the judicial system.

111. Myanmar noted the adoption of new laws, including the Human Trafficking Act, the creation of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking and the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights.

112. Namibia noted the legislative developments and efforts to promote social and economic rights relating to food, housing, water and sanitation and education.

113. The Netherlands expressed concern about the prevention by the Government of civil society representatives from travelling to Geneva to share their views with the international community during the present review.

114. New Zealand expressed concern about the conflicts in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur and called for an immediate end to attacks against civilians. It welcomed the signing of the Roadmap agreement and urged its full implementation.

115. The Niger noted the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights to strengthen human rights foundations in law and in practice.

116. Nigeria noted the engagement with stakeholders in the preparation of the national report and the commitment to the principles of the United Nations.

117. Norway commended the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the efforts to reduce child marriages.

118. Oman commended the efforts to empower women and enhance their participation in decision-making processes and the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights, aimed at, inter-alia, building partnerships with civil society organizations.

119. Pakistan welcomed the efforts to promote human rights, including in the areas of protecting victims of trafficking, women and children.

120. The Philippines urged that steps be taken to address concerns in the areas of health care, water, education, food, transport and development. It called on the international community to assist with action to address climate change.

121. Poland noted the efforts to comply with the recommendations of the review and encouraged the effective implementation of the National Action Plan on Human Rights.

122. Portugal expressed concern about the human rights situation and noted the cases of arbitrary arrest and detention, ill-treatment of human rights defenders and that the death penalty was used for crimes not considered serious under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

123. The Republic of Korea stated that national integrity and long-term stability could only be achieved through reconciliation and confidence-building and that sexual violence in conflict areas must be investigated.

124. Saudi Arabia noted the political and economic challenges and commended the efforts to combat human trafficking by creating the National Committee and adopting the law on human trafficking and the development of plans and programmes to provide adequate food.

125. Senegal welcomed the ongoing efforts to fulfil the commitments relating to the review and the positive reforms in the areas of health care, education, women's rights and vulnerable groups. It invited the international community to provide support for the adoption of a new Constitution.

126. Sierra Leone encouraged further efforts to eliminate violence against women and ensure the protection of human rights defenders. It expressed concern about the internal armed conflict.

127. Slovakia noted that many of the recommendations from the first review have not been implemented. It expressed concern that the interim Constitution and national framework did not fully recognize civil and political rights and about restrictions on human rights defenders.

128. Slovenia noted that civil society representatives were prevented from attending the present review. It expressed concern about human rights abuses by all parties to the conflict and the denial of humanitarian access for the civil population.

129. South Africa welcomed the legislative developments, the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the Salima campaign to prevent female genital mutilation.

130. Guatemala was concerned about violence against women and reports on the lack of investigation of related crimes.

131. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted the effect of the unilateral coercive measures on the standard of living and the achievements regarding the right to education, including measures to improve access in remote areas.

132. Viet Nam noted the adoption of the new Constitution, several new laws and the National Action Plan on Human Rights.

133. Mauritania acknowledged the adoption of several laws, including the Human Trafficking Act, the Asylum Act and the Freedom of Information Act. It valued the pledge to pursue and reinforce human rights cooperation and communications with all national, regional and international partners.

134. Qatar noted the measures to implement the recommendations of the review and commended the efforts to achieve peace and stability in all parts of the Sudan by adopting the National Dialogue approach as a basis for achieving political consensus.

135. The delegation underlined that the Sudan was not a party to the International Criminal Court and was not bound by its decisions; whereas, it was bound by African Union resolutions in that respect.

136. The Sudan rarely strove to address human trafficking in collaboration with international and regional partners, although the refugee influx and lack of natural barriers outweighed State capabilities. It received about 1,000-1,200 asylum seekers monthly and 97 per cent were granted asylum. It was bound by the principle of non-refoulement.

137. In conclusion, the head of the delegation reconfirmed the commitment and full respect for international standards of human rights and its commitment to cooperation with international mechanisms. He called on the international community for support in the reform process and human rights development and promotion.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

138. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by the Sudan and enjoy its support:**

138.1 **Consider ratification of other international human rights treaties to which it is not yet a State party (Philippines);**

138.2 **Consider ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ghana);**

138.3 **Consider ratifying international instruments particularly the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Pakistan);**

138.4 **Accelerate the exercise that it has initiated to consider the possibility of acceding to a number of international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Zimbabwe);**

138.5 **Consider ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and to review its domestic legislation with the aim to eliminate discrimination against women (Namibia);**

138.6 **Step efforts concerning accession to core human rights treaties, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture, before the third cycle review (Brazil);**

138.7 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Italy) (Honduras) (Guatemala) (Viet Nam) (Uruguay) (Congo) (France) (Slovakia) (Czech Republic) (Georgia); (Lebanon) (Togo) (South Africa) (Sierra Leone) (Denmark) (Poland) (El Salvador);**

138.8 **Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture (Ghana);**

138.9 **Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Burkina Faso);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

138.10 **Strengthen efforts to address the prevention of torture and inhuman treatment through the ratification of the Convention against Torture (Indonesia);**

138.11 **Consider signing and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia); Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines) (Ghana);**

138.12 **Consider ratification of the International Labour Organization Convention No. 189 (Philippines);**

138.13 **Sign and ratify the African Union Maputo Protocol on the rights of women in Africa (Norway);**

138.14 **Speed up the adoption of the permanent Constitution of Sudan (Kuwait);**

138.15 **Expedite the adoption of a Constitution and ensure that all national laws are in conformity with international human rights law (Botswana);**

138.16 **Continue the constitutional review process in full transparency and clarity on the primacy of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights over domestic law (Lithuania);**

138.17 **Ensure transparency of institutional reforms and wide participation of NGOs throughout the adoption of the new Constitution (Ukraine);**

138.18 **Introduce a comprehensive definition of racial discrimination related to the constitutional provisions on equality and non-discrimination and measures taken (Albania);**

138.19 **Bring national legislation into line with regional and international human rights treaties to which it is a party (Burkina Faso);**

138.20 **Bring the 2009 Press and Publications Act and all other relevant legislation in line with international and constitutional obligations to protect the right to freedom of expression (Canada);**

138.21 **Harmonize domestic legislation with the Sudan's international obligations in the area of protection of women and children's rights (Colombia);**

138.22 **Consider the possibility of re-examining areas of its legislation that have led to restrict political freedom and freedom of expression, arbitrary arrests, detention, executions and torture, as part of wider effort to strengthen the rule of law (Japan);**

138.23 **Amend national legislation to align it with international human rights instruments to which the Sudan is a party (Madagascar);**

138.24 **Enact laws and promote public policies to fight violence against women, including through the criminalization of violence and sexual attacks (Mexico);**

138.25 **Ensure the adoption of legislation that prohibits child, early and forced marriage (Maldives);**

138.26 Legislate for the prohibition of female genital mutilation (Republic of Korea);

138.27 Develop a code of conduct, or similar type of document, for the respect for human rights within the armed forces and the police and provide them with training on their human rights obligations (Norway);

138.28 Adopt legislation prohibiting the dissemination of ideas based on racial and ethnic hatred and incitement to racial discrimination and violence and ensure full respect for freedom of religion or belief and the human rights of the persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, in line with the international human rights law (Poland);

138.29 Continue strengthening the institutionalization of human rights, through establishing a national system for institutional coordination allowing to design, implement and follow-up public human rights policies (Colombia);

138.30 Establish a general coordinated strategy on gender issues within all the public institutions (Chile);

138.31 Implement action plan to protect children in areas of armed conflict adopted in March 2016 (France);

138.32 Take concrete and prompt measures to implement the Action Plan for the protection of children in armed conflict (Switzerland);

138.33 Provide international support to help overcome impediments to the promotion and protection of human rights (Kuwait);

138.34 Establish an institutional mechanism to fight discrimination and violence against women and children (Viet Nam);

138.35 Continue to take measures to reduce maternal and child mortality to achieve the objectives of the sustainable development goals 2030 (Bahrain);

138.36 Establish a national action plan to prevent child marriage (Republic of Korea);

138.37 Allocate the necessary financial and human resources for the effective exercise of the National Commission for Human Rights and the Human Rights Committee of the National Assembly's mandates (Timor-Leste);

138.38 Ensure the institutionalization of an independent national human rights commission in conformity with the Paris Principles (Chile);

138.39 Continue supporting the National Commission for Human Rights and provide assurances to enable it to discharge its mandate independently in accordance with the Paris Principles (Morocco);

138.40 Ensure independence and adequate financial resources for the Sudanese Human Right's Commission (Norway);

138.41 Strengthen the role of the national human rights commission to allow it to perform its mandate (Algeria);

138.42 Strengthen the role of the National Commission for Human Rights to enable it to discharge its mandate effectively and independently in accordance with the Paris Principles (Qatar);

138.43 Guarantee the proper functioning of the National Human Rights Commission and its independence in conformity with the Paris principles (France);

138.44 **Devote more effort to addressing the outstanding human rights issues through the National Action Plan, which is now in place, and provide adequate financial and human resources for its effective implementation (Uganda);**

138.45 **Continue implementing the national action plan for the promotion and protection of human rights (2013-2023) (Cuba);**

138.46 **Strengthen the strategic planning process initiated in its human rights national plan (2007-2031) (Equatorial Guinea);**

138.47 **Allocate appropriate manpower and finance for the implementation of the National Plan to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Sudan (2013-2023) (Ethiopia);**

138.48 **Fully implement the Action Plan to end and prevent the recruitment of children into the armed forces (Lithuania);**

138.49 **Step up efforts to draft and implement a comprehensive human rights action plan that will serve as a framework for the implementation of its human rights policies and programs (Philippines);**

138.50 **Develop a comprehensive human rights strategy (Cuba);**

138.51 **Ensure a prompt, complete and effective implementation of the action plan to bring the recruitment of child soldiers to an end (Luxembourg);**

138.52 **Strengthen State mechanisms related to the care for the most vulnerable groups in need of protection, such as women, children and persons with disabilities (Saudi Arabia);**

138.53 **Actively counter any ethnic strife and armed conflict (Tajikistan);**

138.54 **Continue building the national capacity to counter trafficking in human beings (Belarus);**

138.55 **Continue to implement the strategies and plans for the promotion of the economic and social development in the country (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

138.56 **Strengthen efforts to raise awareness on human rights to all members of the society (Lebanon);**

138.57 **Intensify training and education efforts in the field of human rights (Morocco);**

138.58 **Continue to implement policies for the socio-economic growth of its people (Pakistan);**

138.59 **Continue constructive cooperation with international human rights mechanisms to protect and promote human rights (Tajikistan);**

138.60 **Strengthen cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms (El Salvador);**

138.61 **Reinforce its cooperation with treaty bodies and special procedures (Chile);**

138.62 **Cooperate with international human rights mechanisms and with special procedures mandate holders (Congo);**

138.63 **Cooperate with the United Nations Independent Expert, including by granting him access to the entire country (Lithuania);**

138.64 **Ensure equality of rights is guaranteed to men and women, not just in some areas but in all spheres of life in the country (Burundi);**

138.65 **Take concrete measures to eliminate all discrimination against women, improve women representation in leadership positions, and protect women against all forms of violence (Malaysia);**

138.66 **Ensure provision of comprehensive and non-discriminatory health services to women and girls who have experienced sexual violence (South Africa);**

138.67 **Design and implement public policies and programmes to address violence against women, in particular measures against the practice of female genital mutilation and actions of protection and reparation for women victims (Colombia);**

138.68 **Promote active presence of women in society (Chile);**

138.69 **Continue its efforts in the area of empowerment of women and enhance their role in the political, economic and social fields, as well as seeking collaboration with partners and stakeholders at the national and regional levels in order to continue to improve the human rights situation in the Sudan (Oman);**

138.70 **Strengthen initiatives to promote equality and fight against discrimination, particularly those aimed at expanding political participation, whether from a gender ethnic, regional or social perspective (Brazil);**

138.71 **Create an environment that supports inclusive dialogue, instituting legal reforms to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms (United States of America);**

138.72 **Continue its efforts to achieve the results of the national dialogue to reach a comprehensive and sustainable peace in all regions of the Sudan (Yemen);**

138.73 **Parties involved in the armed conflict, respect civilians and the rules of international humanitarian law, and human rights (Costa Rica);**

138.74 **Adopt criminal legislation that defines and criminalizes torture (Timor-Leste);**

138.75 **Adopt legislation that clearly defines and criminalizes torture (Maldives);**

138.76 **Take all necessary measures to eliminate definitely practices of female genital mutilation and child marriages (Spain);**

138.77 **Take further steps to devise an effective response to all forms of violence against women, including the criminalization of domestic violence (Turkey);**

138.78 **Strengthen efforts to prevent child marriage, including by combating stereotypes through diversified awareness-raising campaigns (Turkey);**

138.79 **Raise the minimum age for marriage to comply with international child rights standards in order to prevent early, child and enforced marriages (Australia);**

138.80 Strengthen the general public awareness of, security services and the administration of justice regarding domestic violence, sexual violence, female genital mutilation, particularly through training and launching of awareness and information campaigns (Belgium);

138.81 Ensure effective criminal justice responses to all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence and female genital mutilations (Burkina Faso);

138.82 Strengthen measures to address violence against women, including sexual violence, provide help for its victims and hold accountable its perpetrators, while also ensuring effective implementation of the laws prohibiting female genital mutilation at the State level and adopting legislation prohibiting the practice completely throughout the country (Czech Republic);

138.83 Continue efforts to eradicate harmful traditional practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation (Ethiopia);

138.84 Take effective action to combat and eliminate the phenomenon of female genital mutilation and ensure the full implementation of the relevant National Action Plan (Cyprus);

138.85 Implement the national strategy to prevent female genital mutilation (2008-2018) and the national strategy to end child marriage (China);

138.86 Give priority to ensure independent, impartial and effective investigations into violations of women's rights (Denmark);

138.87 Take further steps to eliminate female genital mutilation (Timor-Leste);

138.88 Strengthen the efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation, including by legal prohibition of such practice and awareness-raising and education of all, especially women and girls (Slovenia);

138.89 Guarantee respect for the rights and fundamental freedoms of the entire population, especially women and children, and take all necessary measures to ensure the fight against impunity of the perpetrators of crimes, acts of violence and all human rights violations (Argentina);

138.90 Consider to put in place appropriate safeguards to protect civilians from any discriminatory, ill-treatment or criminal offences committed by members of the law enforcement agencies (Malaysia);

138.91 Carry out prompt, independent and thorough investigation of the allegations of torture and excessive use of force by State officials as well as other human rights violation, including sexual abuses (Slovakia);

138.92 Investigate all cases of human rights violations and prosecute those responsible without exception and impunity (Slovenia);

138.93 Continue efforts for the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents rights; expand the juvenile justice system and actions aimed to implement the mandatory birth registration; and for eradication of female genital mutilation (El Salvador);

138.94 Provide a follow-up to the initiatives to strengthen the protection of rights of the child (Equatorial Guinea);

138.95 Take effective measures to respect the right to freedom of religion without discrimination (Slovakia);

138.96 **Guarantee the free exercise of freedoms of expression and opinion (Togo);**

138.97 **Take concrete steps to ensure freedom of expression, including for the media, and to ensure that all alleged attacks against journalists and human rights defenders are promptly and independently investigated (Norway);**

138.98 **Take necessary measures to guarantee full respect for freedom of expression and freedom of association (France);**

138.99 **Take adequate measures to effectively safeguard the freedoms of expression, association and assembly (Cyprus);**

138.100 **Take concrete steps to ensure a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and other civil society actors, journalists and members of the opposition, while also ensuring that independent civil society can meaningfully participate in all stages of the review process without hindrance and fear of reprisals (Czech Republic);**

138.101 **Guarantee the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and amend existing legislation that is in violation of it (Germany);**

138.102 **Grant women with civil and political rights, the right to health and the right to education without discrimination (Angola);**

138.103 **Increase efforts to reinforce the participation of women in decision making posts (Senegal);**

138.104 **Continue to implement strategies and plans that ensures economic and social development and give specific attention to combating poverty (State of Palestine);**

138.105 **Intensify efforts to achieve further gains in the areas of poverty reduction and improving the living conditions of the people in rural areas, particularly in providing necessary resources to realize the right to adequate housing and health (Sri Lanka);**

138.106 **Continue taking measures in favour of development and to reduce the level of poverty (Belarus);**

138.107 **Intensify efforts in the fight against poverty and to respond to the basic needs of the poor (Iraq);**

138.108 **Intensify efforts to fight against poverty (Kuwait);**

138.109 **Ensure the right to adequate food, especially during times of conflict and in states of emergency (Thailand);**

138.110 **Continue to work with the World Health Organization and other United Nations agencies as well as with relevant international organizations to strengthen the public health system and facilities, not only in the conflict-affected areas but also in all parts of the country (Thailand);**

138.111 **Increase the resource allocation for the health sector, especially to fulfil steps towards securing a comprehensive healthcare system (Turkey);**

138.112 **Develop programmes aimed at guaranteeing the right to education and the right to health (Iraq);**

138.113 Continue efforts aimed at ensuring access to basic education for all and measures to strengthen the performance of the education system (Sri Lanka);

138.114 Promote education by adopting additional policies to improve the enrolment of children in basic education, as well as combat discrimination in that field (State of Palestine);

138.115 Strengthen the process of educational reform (Tajikistan);

138.116 Seek to intensify national efforts to implement alternative learning programmes for children and youth (Bahrain);

138.117 Continue to pursue measures designed to reduce the number of children who are not enrolled in school (Equatorial Guinea);

138.118 Ensure the primacy of fulfilling the right to education for all children, continue to dedicate more resources to eradicate illiteracy among children and adults, and improve the number of children completing their education (Malaysia);

138.119 Continue strengthening the national infrastructure with an emphasis on the successful educational policy in order to achieve full access (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

138.120 Intensify its efforts to addressing the issues of education, poverty and health (Nigeria);

138.121 Continue implementing the plans, programs and measures aimed at guaranteeing the right to education and access to appropriate health services for all citizens (Saudi Arabia);

138.122 Continue implementing the plans, programs and measures that aim to guarantee the right to education and access to appropriate health services for all its citizens (Qatar);

138.123 Continue the efforts towards raising the enrolment rate for children in schools, particularly girls (Morocco);

138.124 Continue to implement the national strategic plan for education, with special emphasis on the right to education of vulnerable groups including children living in rural areas, persons with disabilities, nomads and internally displaced persons (China);

138.125 Increase access to school education for all children, especially girls, children in rural areas and children of marginalised groups such as nomadic persons (South Africa);

138.126 Enhance efforts for effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

138.127 Ensure safety of refugees and asylum seekers by also seeking international assistance (Nigeria);

138.128 Grant full access for humanitarian aid to the population in need in Darfur (Ukraine);

138.129 Adopt measures to guarantee access to basic services, as well as the investigation of allegations of human rights violations in camps for internally displaced persons (Argentina);

138.130 Continue its efforts in order to address the problems related to internal displacement (Azerbaijan);

138.131 Take measures to protect the rights of the internally displaced, through comprehensive attention and reparation, in particular access to basic services (Colombia);

138.132 Intensify the efforts for the creation of a concrete national framework on the internal displacement, which would secure equal access to humanitarian aid but also develop a preventive strategy for new internally displaced persons, including training of security forces to this effect (Greece);

138.133 Both the Government and armed groups immediately take necessary steps to cease all forms of conflict and ensure humanitarian access for internally displaced persons (Japan);

138.134 Continue to provide and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance for internally displaced persons in areas of conflict in the country, and take comprehensive actions to stop further displacement (Malaysia);

138.135 Authorise and facilitate humanitarian access to all areas of the country (Maldives);

138.136 Ensure that humanitarian access is granted to civilian populations in all conflict-affected areas (Portugal);

138.137 Exert further efforts in addressing the negative impacts of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights in the Sudan (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

138.138 Continue to seek technical assistance from the international community in the rebuilding process to help it fulfil its obligations (Pakistan);

138.139 Continue to seek assistance from the international community in line with its national plan (Myanmar).

139. The following recommendations enjoy the support of the Sudan, which considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation:

139.1 Facilitate the access of United Nations agencies and other humanitarian actors to conflict zones (Switzerland);

139.2 Investigate sexual violence in conflict (Republic of Korea);

139.3 Criminalize the recruitment of children and investigate all the reports of recruitment of children by the security forces, ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice and duly prosecuted (Portugal);

139.4 Enact all the necessary measures to effectively implement the Action Plan to end recruitment of children (Slovenia);

139.5 Promptly implement the action plan between the Sudan and the United Nations to end child recruitment and criminalize in domestic law the recruitment and use of children by the security forces and other groups (Guatemala);

139.6 Continue taking strong measures to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse of migrant women and children, including by fully implementing the Human Trafficking Act of 2014, training law enforcement officials and ensuring adequate protection for victims of human trafficking (Sweden);

139.7 Provide the national commission for combatting trafficking in persons with the appropriate human and financial resources to enable it to carry out its tasks in the best way (United Arab Emirates);

139.8 Continue efforts to combat human trafficking, particularly of vulnerable groups, such as women and children (Myanmar);

139.9 Continue to intensify the national efforts to control the borders and fight against the networks of human trafficking, to fight the activities of terrorist groups in the border areas, and to continue its effective cooperation with neighbouring countries in this field (Libya);

139.10 Take concrete measures to improve the independence of the judiciary (Burkina Faso);

139.11 Take appropriate measures to prosecute perpetrators of acts of torture (Togo);

139.12 Further strengthen efforts towards birth registration for all, with a view to encouraging access to relevant procedures (Turkey);

139.13 Establish effective measures to increase the registration of children and to obtain birth registration (Mexico);

139.14 Introduce a freedom of information law (Lithuania).

140. The following recommendations will be examined by the Sudan, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-third session of the Human Rights Council, in September 2016:

140.1 Proceed with the ratification of international human rights treaties and other relevant international instruments to which the Sudan is not yet a party (Chile);

140.2 Ratify international human rights treaties, including the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Poland);

140.3 Sign and ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Slovakia) (Sierra Leone) (Belgium); ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Lebanon) (Timor-Leste) (Viet Nam) (Guatemala) (Turkey) (Algeria) (Italy) (Botswana) (France) (Georgia) (Montenegro) (Honduras) (Indonesia) (Angola) (Senegal) (Poland) (El Salvador);

140.4 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Italy);

140.5 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (El Salvador);

140.6 Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and adopt a law prohibiting genital mutilations (Luxembourg);

140.7 Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and deepen efforts to eliminate discriminatory legal provisions that limit the rights of women (Uruguay);

140.8 Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and eliminate discriminatory practices, especially during conflict (Greece);

140.9 Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and prohibit female genital mutilation (Costa Rica);

140.10 Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to ensure full gender equality and adopt a comprehensive national action plan with clear goals and deadlines to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including sexual violence and female genital mutilation (Latvia);

140.11 Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and adopt a National Action Plan on Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (Sweden);

140.12 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Guatemala) (Italy) (Togo) (Czech Republic) (Honduras) (South Africa) (Lebanon) (Poland);

140.13 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Ghana);

140.14 Ratify the international treaties to which the state is not yet party, particularly the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Madagascar);

140.15 Conclude the ratification of the remaining instruments in particular the Convention against Torture, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which have been pending since the 2011 review (Kenya);

140.16 Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Albania);

140.17 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Niger) (Honduras) (Guatemala) (El Salvador);

140.18 Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Slovakia); ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Honduras) (Niger);

140.19 Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Congo);

140.20 As a way to strengthen article 69 of the 2010 Child Act, remove from national legislation all forms of corporal punishment and abolish corporal punishment in the penal system (Uruguay);

140.21 Repeal all laws that discriminate against women and girls and ensure conformity with international standards (Iceland);

140.22 Adopt legislation prohibiting the dissemination of ideas and expressions of racial hatred and violence against any group of persons (Lithuania);

140.23 Reconsider amendments to the constitution, other laws and policies that contradict with the Sudan's international obligations, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law (Slovakia);

140.24 Make progress towards the abolition of the crime of apostasy and the elimination of other laws and practices contrary to freedom of religion and/or belief (Spain);

140.25 Revise the 1991 Penal Code and abolish the penalization of apostasy (Australia) (Italy);

140.26 Amend the National Security Act of 2010 to abolish the criminal immunity enjoyed by security officers (Spain);

140.27 Reform the National Security Act (2010) so it adheres to international standards, including by removing provisions that provide National Intelligence and Security Service officers with immunity from prosecution (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

140.28 Revisions to the National Security Act, which allows for civil and criminal immunity for security forces in relation to serious human rights violations and abuses committed in their official capacity, and those responsible for serious human rights violations and abuses be held to account (Australia);

140.29 Amend the 2010 National Security Act, removing immunities from members of the National Intelligence and Security Services and revoking their powers of arrest and detention (Canada);

140.30 Review the National Security Act, in particular the extensive powers granted to the National Intelligence and Security Services, to bring it in line with international human rights law (Denmark);

140.31 Cooperate fully with United Nations and other international human rights monitors to help promote accountability (United States of America);

140.32 Concretize the visit of special procedures on racism and enforce disappearances (Costa Rica);

140.33 Extend a standing invitation to all special procedures and respond positively to pending visit requests (Iceland);

140.34 Extend a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders (Latvia) (Lithuania) (Poland);

140.35 Cooperate fully with special procedures mandate holders and UNAMID (Ukraine);

140.36 Review and amend legislation containing discriminatory provisions towards women such as, inter alia, the Personal Status Law and the Criminal Law, and adopt a national action plan on gender equality (Czech Republic);

140.37 Pursue the objective of peace in Darfur in promoting especially the rights of the minorities (Senegal);

140.38 Cease immediately aerial bombardments and allow free access for humanitarian aid to areas of conflict so as to meet its obligations under international law (Germany);

140.39 **Allow unrestricted and independent humanitarian access to all areas which are still affected by conflicts in order to make it possible to provide assistance to civilians, in particular women and children (Italy);**

140.40 **That the Government ends violent suppression of protestors and arbitrary detention of political activists and journalists (New Zealand);**

140.41 **Criminalize violence against women and girls, female genital mutilation and marital rape (Iceland);**

140.42 **Adopt legislation to prevent and punish child marriage, by setting 18 as the legal age for marriage, for both women and men (Madagascar);**

140.43 **Raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 (Sierra Leone);**

140.44 **Investigate allegations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations by armed and security forces in a prompt, transparent and impartial manner and ensure that perpetrators of violations are brought to justice (France);**

140.45 **Take immediate measures to conduct independent inquiries into all human rights violations, including allegations of extrajudicial executions, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment, and international humanitarian law, as well as to bring perpetrators to justice (Switzerland);**

140.46 **Ensure that all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, as well as mass rapes, and sexual and gender-bases violence are promptly, independently and thoroughly investigated and to take all the necessary measures to bring perpetrators to justice (Portugal);**

140.47 **Take measures to end and prevent attacks against civilians. Conduct transparent investigations of allegations of human rights violations and abuses, and hold perpetrators accountable (Canada);**

140.48 **Protect human rights in Darfur and the Two Areas, including by ending violence, ensuring accountability for deaths and sexual violence, granting humanitarian access, and allowing aid agencies and NGOs to implement human rights programmes (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

140.49 **Take urgent steps to facilitate the work of human rights defenders and civil society, including through guaranteeing freedom of expression and the media and protection of all persons from intimidation, threats, attacks or reprisals for seeking to cooperate with the United Nations; and through allowing unimpeded humanitarian access to conflict affected populations, with appropriate protection to humanitarian actors (Ireland);**

140.50 **Protect human rights defenders and journalists from violence and arbitrary arrests, to address impunity for crimes against human rights defenders and journalists and to notify the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the status of the judicial inquiry into the murder of journalists (Netherlands);**

140.51 **In relation to armed conflicts in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile, with multiple attacks against the civilian population, take concrete measures for the displaced population and in order to facilitate for humanitarian access (Spain);**

140.52 **Restore the cessation of hostilities declaration that reduced violence in Darfur and the Two Areas and facilitate immediate and unfettered humanitarian access to conflict areas (United States of America);**

140.53 **Take all necessary steps to ensure full and unhindered access by independent humanitarian organizations to civilians in need of assistance in Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan (Sweden);**

140.54 **Facilitate access to humanitarians in conflict zones (Congo).**

141. **The recommendations listed below were noted by the Sudan:**

141.1 **Ratify the two Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Honduras);**

141.2 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro) (Albania); ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Uruguay);**

141.3 **Adopt an official moratorium aiming at the formal abolition of the death penalty in the country and to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal);**

141.4 **Initiate the process of ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with the view of definitely abolishing the death penalty (Luxembourg);**

141.5 **Ratify without reservations the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Austria);**

141.6 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and abolish the death penalty (Costa Rica);**

141.7 **Ratify the Convention against Torture, and prohibit corporal punishment, present in legislation, in the penal system (Spain);**

141.8 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Timor-Leste) (Honduras) (Slovakia);**

141.9 **Consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Ghana);**

141.10 **Accede to and fully align national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, including incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the Court as it is required to do under Security Council resolution 1593 by executing outstanding arrest warrants (Canada);**

141.11 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to ensure accountability for, prevention of and justice for the victims of human rights violations and fully cooperate with the International Criminal Court (Latvia);**

141.12 **Ratify the Rome Statute and fully cooperate with the International Criminal Court that those responsible for crimes under international law are prosecuted and justice for the victims is guaranteed (Lithuania);**

141.13 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully cooperate with international mechanisms of accountability in order for those responsible of international crimes to be brought to justice (Guatemala);**

141.14 **Repeal the constitutional amendment that transforms the National Intelligence and Security Service into an entity with powers to arrest and detain, and to launch, without delay, independent investigations into the human rights violations committed by this Service (Germany);**

141.15 **Revise the National Security Act of 2010 to bring it into line with international standards; in particular to end immunity provisions and to ensure that human rights violations by armed forces, police and National Intelligence and Security Service, including the Rapid Response Force, are investigated and prosecuted (Norway);**

141.16 **Amend, without delay, the 2009 Press and Publications Act, to bring it in line with international standards on press freedom and to ensure that no provisions unduly restrict the rights of freedom of expression, assembly and association, in conformity with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Netherlands);**

141.17 **Adopt measures in the legislative and political spheres, including appropriate budget allocation, to guarantee, prevent and eradicate discrimination on religious grounds, ethnic composition, gender or sexual orientation (Honduras);**

141.18 **Urgently review its criminal justice system, in particular to criminalise torture and prohibit the use in courts of evidence obtained in violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; abolish corporal punishment in the penal system; abolish the crime of apostasy; implement the recently signed Action Plan to prevent the recruitment of children in the national security forces; and address the impunity of police, armed and national security forces, by amending the National Security Act 2010 to conform with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and through ratification of the Statute of the International Criminal Court (Ireland);**

141.19 **Remove the criminal immunity of members of the police, armed forces and national security forces, as enshrined within the National Security Act of 2010 (Uruguay);**

141.20 **Commit to preventing further violence and human rights violations in Darfur also through effective cooperation with all relevant international bodies (Italy);**

141.21 **Push forward for the elimination of discriminatory provisions affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Chile);**

141.22 **Halt and prevent attacks against civilians, including the use of rape as a weapon of war, and to allow humanitarian access to all areas (Austria);**

141.23 **Put an end to the death penalty (Congo);**

141.24 **Abolish immediately the death penalty (Slovakia);**

141.25 **Establish a moratorium on capital executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty and to repeal all legislation that allows for the application of corporal punishment (Italy);**

141.26 Establish a formal moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);

141.27 Establish a moratorium on executions and reduce the number of crimes punishable by the death penalty (Belgium);

141.28 Impose an immediate moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it, and to ensure that it is never applied to persons under the age of 18 (Austria);

141.29 Establish a moratorium on the death penalty and consider its eventual abolition, especially and urgently in relation to the execution of children under the age of 18 years (Mexico);

141.30 Consider imposing a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolish it and to take measures to ensure that it is never applied to persons under the age of 18 years (Namibia);

141.31 Establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Spain); establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards complete abolition (France); introduce a moratorium on death sentences with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Georgia); consider establishing a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it (Sierra Leone);

141.32 Fully cooperate with international mechanisms of accountability, including the International Criminal Court, in order to ensure that those responsible for international crimes committed in Darfur are brought to justice (Iceland);

141.33 Ensure that those suspected of being responsible for crimes under international law in Darfur — particularly those within government security and armed forces — are investigated and prosecuted before independent and impartial courts, without resort to the death penalty (Liechtenstein);

141.34 Comply with Security Council resolution 1593 (2005) and fully cooperate with the International Criminal Court (Liechtenstein);

141.35 Establish a commission of inquiry with national and international members to examine all allegations of violations against women in various regions of the country (Guatemala);

141.36 Ensure effective prosecution and accountability of perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and fully cooperate with the International Criminal Court under relevant Security Council resolutions (Austria);

141.37 Cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court (Switzerland).

142. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Sudan was headed by H.E. Dr. Awad Elhassan Elnour Khalifa, Minister of Justice, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, Permanent Representative of Sudan to the United Nations Office at Geneva;
- H.E. Ambassador Kamal Gubara, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations Office at Geneva;
- Mr. Salaheldin Abdalla, General Prosecutor, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Khalid Musa, Minister Plenipotentiary, Mission of Sudan, Geneva;
- Mr. Yasir Sidahmed, Rapporteur Advisory Council for Human Rights;
- Dr. Attiat Mustafa, Director, Unit for combating violence against women;
- Mr. Mohamed Yassin Eltohami, Deputy Commissioner for Refugees;
- Mr. Shazali Elhaj Mustafa Ahmed, Deputy Director, Department of Human Rights, Ministry of Justice;
- Mrs. Omaima Alsharief, Deputy Director, Department of Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mrs. Khadiga Elfadil Mohammed, Legal Counsellor, Ministry of Justice;
- Dr. Mohmed Eltom Mohmed Elzein, Department of Planning and International Health Programme, Ministry of Health;
- Mr. Khalid Kheiri Ahmed Kheiri, Head of the Minister of Justice executive office;
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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Hungary

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Contents

		Page
	Introduction	3
I.	Summary of the proceedings of the review process	3
	A. Presentation by the State under review	3
	B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review	5
II.	Conclusions and/or recommendations	13
Annex		
	Composition of the delegation	27

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-fifth session from 2 to 13 May 2016. The review of Hungary was held at the 6th meeting on 4 May 2016. The delegation of Hungary was headed by the Minister of Justice, László Trócsányi. At its 13th meeting, held on 10 May 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Hungary.

2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Hungary: Nigeria, Panama and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Hungary:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/25/HUN/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/25/HUN/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/25/HUN/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Afghanistan, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Hungary through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Minister of Justice stated that Hungary attached particular importance to the universal periodic review mechanism and was committed to protecting and fulfilling all of its human rights international obligations.

6. The delegation recalled that, in conformity with its open invitation, Hungary had received six visits of special procedure mandate holders since its first review, had responded to all of their letters had submitted reports on time to three treaty bodies, was making every effort to submit its overdue reports and had presented, in May 2014, a mid-term report on the universal periodic review, on the implementation of the recommendations received in 2011.

7. In 2012, Hungary had acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and, in January 2015, the office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights had become the National Preventive Mechanism called for in the Optional Protocol. Hungary had acceded to or was in the process of ratifying several European human rights instruments, and the Government had continued to incorporate its international obligations in its national legislation.

8. The new Fundamental Law had come into force in January 2012, which enshrined that human rights are inalienable, interdependent and indivisible. Hungary remained a parliamentary democratic republic. Several cardinal laws requiring a qualified majority had been adopted relating to the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, the Constitutional Court, the legal status and remuneration of judges and to such major human rights issues as freedom of information, the prosecution service, freedom of conscience and religion and the legal status of churches.

9. The national human rights institution had been strengthened and unified and, in December 2014, had received A status from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. Furthermore, the national architecture for the protection of fundamental rights had been perfected with the establishment of the National Authority for Data Protection and Freedom of Information and by the Equal Treatment Authority.

10. One of the outcomes of the first review cycle had been the establishment in 2012 of an interministerial human rights working group with an advisory nature. The working group had established a round-table group to facilitate consultations with civil society organizations. For instance, the draft national report prepared by the Government for its second universal periodic review cycle had been circulated among the members of the round-table group for observations, which were subsequently incorporated into the final version of the report. As a signature engagement, the Government of Hungary had organized since 2008 the Budapest Human Rights Forum to diffuse knowledge and raise awareness about human rights.

11. The Government had embarked on a comprehensive reform of the penal system to bring it into line with international law. In that context, a new criminal code had entered into force in July 2013 based on four principles: efficiency, consistency, simplicity and modernity, supplemented with severity in the case of repeat offenders, and a preventative approach for first offenders.

12. The legislation on penal execution had been reviewed to, inter alia, integrate several recommendations from the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Furthermore, following the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights in *László Magyar v. Hungary*, the Government had authorized the possibility of revising life imprisonment sentences.

13. The delegation noted that the Ministry of Justice was in the process of amending the Law on Criminal Procedures to incorporate, among other provisions, the protection of the procedural rights of vulnerable groups and the effective regulation of covert operations and secret surveillance.

14. With regard to equality and non-discrimination, the delegation stated the new Fundamental Law contained a comprehensive definition of discrimination. And, following the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the new Penal Code introduced a legal provision criminalizing domestic violence, including psychological violence.

15. The Government had established a policy of zero tolerance against xenophobia and racism. Anti-Semitic and Anti-Roma statements had been officially denounced by the Government and had triggered legislative revisions. For instance, the rules of procedure of Parliament concerning hate speech had been hardened and the Chair has a wider disciplinary authority, including the ability to request the exclusion of a member of parliament from a session and impose fines if he or she uses expressions against national, ethnic or religious groups or individuals. Moreover, an advisory group composed of hate crimes specialists had been established in 2012.

16. The denial of the Holocaust (Jewish and Roma) had also been criminalized in the Penal Code, with penalties of up to three years of imprisonment.

17. The Minister of Justice acknowledged that, since 2015, Hungary had been facing, with other European countries, a migration crisis without precedent. Hungary had done its best to find a balance between the respect of humanitarian law and the protection of the national public order, which was a very complex task. It was in that context that the Government had approved several measures to strengthen the protection of borders and improve the system of asylum, in compliance with international standards.

18. In concluding, the delegation noted that several changes had been introduced in the Criminal Code to consolidate the protection against smuggling in human beings. The most recent amendments had been aimed at curbing the activities of cross-border organizations associated with the migration crisis.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

19. During the interactive dialogue, 86 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

20. Lebanon welcomed the adoption of a new Constitution and commended the interest showed by Hungary in protecting rights of ethnic communities.

21. Sweden stated that, since 2010, the ruling party had made major changes that had gradually removed checks on the executive branch.

22. Switzerland was concerned at the measures taken by Hungary limiting access to the asylum procedure.

23. Tajikistan noted the adoption of a number of laws as a basis of a national strategy for the protection and upholding of human rights.

24. Thailand noted the widespread privatization of health services and urged the Government to ensure its policy did not affect access to quality health care.

25. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and encouraged authorities to continue efforts to tackle disbanded organizations targeting Roma.

26. Timor-Leste welcomed the establishment of an interministerial human rights working group responsible for monitoring human rights.

27. Togo appreciated the full cooperation with special procedure mandate holders and welcomed the establishment of a national preventive mechanism.

28. Turkey remained concerned about the living and detention conditions of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants and underlined the importance of combating human trafficking.

29. Ukraine commended the adoption of the new Constitution and human rights strategies, including on social equality of men and women.

30. The United Arab Emirates welcomed measures to protect minorities from hate crimes and to combat incitement to religious hatred.

31. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland encouraged Hungary to ensure that implementation of new measures contribute to greater transparency.

32. The United States of America was deeply concerned that the Government of Hungary had taken steps that had eroded checks and balances and centralized executive power.

33. Uruguay welcomed the adoption of the new Constitution in 2012, and steps taken on integrating minorities, although challenges persisted.

34. Albania commended Hungary on the adoption of a specific legal provision in line with the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concerning domestic violence.

35. The Philippines expressed concern about reported violation of human rights of migrants and called for international assistance to be given to Hungary.

36. Argentina noted actions taken to end domestic violence and encouraged Hungary to continue adopting measures for this purpose.

37. Australia welcomed the establishment of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights and encouraged Hungary to continue supporting it.

38. Austria expressed concern about allegations of undue government interference with political media coverage and lack of an effective strategy to counter the increase recourse to hate speech in Hungary.

39. Azerbaijan welcomed the accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and appreciated the work done by Hungary in implementing social protection programmes for victims of trafficking.

40. Bahrain commended the intention of Hungary to criminalize domestic violence but was concerned that there had been no similar condemnation of other forms of violence.

41. Bangladesh expressed concern that the current level of official development assistance (ODA) remained low in Hungary despite the efforts to increase ODA contributions.

42. Belarus was satisfied by the adoption of a national strategy on human trafficking and the implementation of youth-oriented preventive programmes.

43. Belgium commended Hungary for the measures it had taken to fight discrimination against women and noted that several reports had mentioned that patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes persisted in Hungarian society.

44. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and expressed concern over constant low representation of women in decision-making processes.

45. The delegation stated that, on the independence of the Constitutional Court and the judiciary, new laws had been enacted that were being reviewed with the representatives of the European Commission. It stated that the Court had very similar rights to the rights of the German Constitutional Court and that, since 2012, in more than 100 cases, the Court had declared some of the laws it had examined to be unconstitutional and overruled some judicial decisions. That had proved that the Constitutional Court was a real and genuine controller of the legislative and executive branches in Hungary. The delegation underscored the independence of the Court.

46. Regarding the administration of the judiciary, a new system had been created in which the National Office for the Judiciary and the National Council of Justice were jointly overviewing and supervising the judicial branch, which demonstrated the absolute independence of the judicial branch.

47. The delegation highlighted that access to public data was rarely rejected — only if there was a national security issue — otherwise data had to be provided. It stressed that, from the point of view of checks and balances concerning the independence of the judiciary and access to public data, Hungary was very transparent.

48. The delegation underscored that, in the context of migration, there was a joint responsibility of the international community, so a solution should be found where all the parties were partners. According to the Fundamental Law of Hungary, the right of asylum was provided to all asylum seekers. Hungary was the only country that registered over 200,000 people at its borders. The Hungarian public administration system was willing to handle those asylum applications. However, the majority of the asylum seekers had actually left the country shortly after applying for asylum. Hungary had not closed its borders per se, but, in order to protect the external borders of the Schengen area, it had established transit zones, within which asylum claimants could enter Hungary, provided their claim had been accepted.

49. The delegation reported that vulnerable groups had always been allowed entry. It pointed out that, in the transit zones, the Hungarian Red Cross and non-governmental organizations had been present, having received financial support from the Government to make sure that those refugees would be taken care of. In the transit zones, accommodation, medical care and catering had been provided. Hungary operated open reception centres. The delegation underscored that, for the implementation of asylum detention, there had been detention centres, not prisons, and that detention had only applied as a last resort (1.35 per cent of asylum seekers had actually been held in detention centres in 2015). The delegation mentioned there was room for improvement. It explained that old international legal frameworks had often been not easy to comply with; therefore, Hungary had been a very active party in various debates concerning the future legal framework and regulation on migrants.

50. Botswana noted measures to combat domestic violence and expressed concern about reports of continued discrimination of women belonging to national minorities.

51. Brazil was concerned with reports on denial of asylum applications after the adoption of a new law stipulating a list of safe countries.

52. Bulgaria appreciated the establishment of the office of the Ombudsman and the creation of an interministerial human rights working group.

53. Canada remained concerned at reports of intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders.

54. Chad welcomed the adoption of a new Constitution and the establishment of a working group on human rights.

55. Chile appreciated the efforts made by Hungary in fighting discrimination against Roma and highlighted the National Strategy to promote gender equality.

56. China noted the measures taker by Hungary in protecting minorities and promoting social inclusion.

57. Colombia noted the measures adopted by Hungary to prevent and combat human trafficking and discrimination against women.

58. Croatia commended campaign for children, parents and teachers to promote responsible Internet use for children, aiming to tackle the protection of personal data and the prevention of cyberbullying.

59. Cuba welcomed measures towards the equal rights of persons with disabilities and noted problems concerning racism, intolerance and hate speech across the political spectrum.

60. The Czech Republic thanked the delegation for its informative presentation.

61. Ecuador was concerned about gender discrimination and mistreatment by security agents against Roma, national minorities and non-citizens, including children.

62. Egypt welcomed, inter alia, strengthened guarantees of judicial independence and support for further independence and effectiveness of the national human rights institution.

63. Ethiopia commended the delegation for the annual Budapest Human Rights Forum and the commitment of the Government in establishing an interministerial working group.

64. Finland emphasized the importance of guaranteeing the right to equal education for Roma children. It expressed concern that Hungary was constructing a system in which the majority of refugees would be denied access to the territory of the European Union as a result of automatic rejections of asylum applications at the border.

65. France welcomed the Hungarian delegation and made recommendations.

66. Georgia commended Hungary for ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and for the establishment of a national preventive mechanism.

67. While seeing persisting shortcomings in Hungary, Germany welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and of the Firearms Protocol.

68. Ghana noted the adoption of a new Constitution providing a comprehensive legislative framework, which demonstrated the commitment to implement its international obligations.

69. Greece welcomed the progress made by Hungary in the field of human rights since its first review, particularly the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

70. Guatemala acknowledged the progress made by Hungary in strengthening human rights through national strategies in a number or areas.

71. The Holy See welcomed measures taken to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and commended the endeavours to enhance the social security of families.

72. Honduras welcomed the endorsement of the National Strategy against human trafficking 2013-2016, the law on detention of victims of trafficking and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

73. Iceland deeply regretted recent amendments to the Hungarian Criminal Code that made it an offence to enter the country through the border fence. It was also concerned at the persistence of xenophobic attitudes and hate crimes towards Roma.

74. On hate speech, the delegation asserted that, until 1989, the country had been governed by a communist dictatorship under which people had no chance to express themselves freely and, at the time of the change of regime, a decision had been made to introduce a very wide definition of the freedom of expression. It was almost an absolute right, so there was only a very limited area of limitation. Various legal acts had dealt with this issue, but the Constitutional Court exercised its criticism in connection with the limitation of the freedom of expression. Nevertheless, in 2011, when the new Fundamental Law was adopted, a very important principle had been included, which was the principle of the dignity of communities. Consequently, when freedom of expression was exercised it

could never harm the dignity of any community, giving the chance to fight against hate speech.

75. The new Civil Code of 2014 entitles any member of a community to enforce his personality rights in the event of a false and malicious statement made in public at large for being part of the Hungarian nation or of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group. The application of the Criminal Code was the *ultima ratio*, but racism-motivated hate speech needed to be combated. The delegation noted that, after the adoption of the new Fundamental Law, an act regarding paramilitary organizations had also been adopted that made it a criminal offence to organize other people against a particular community. The delegation considered that civil society could also operate as a sort of alarm system, with the support from the Government to do so.

76. On the migration issue, the delegation explained that — while taking into account the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees — according the Schengen agreement, any irregular migrant could be sanctioned. In that regard, the issue of safe third countries should be taken into account, and Hungary considered Serbia to be a safe country because the lives of individuals were not at risk there. The delegation also explained it was very difficult to control people coming through the green border and that was why transit zones had been established where people could enter its territories in a regular way. All the applications and procedures had been launched in connection with those who had entered Hungarian territories through the transit zones, while medical help and legal assistance had been provided.

77. The delegation indicated that efforts against human smugglers were of major importance, as was the criminalization of acts in connection to human smuggling, referring to stories about people dying in trucks. It expressed its intention to cooperate with the Office of the Unite Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to address the situation of children and unaccompanied minors.

78. The delegation asserted that religious diversity and religious tolerance had a long tradition in Hungary. There was no prejudice against Islam in Hungary and such acts had no historical context. In Hungary, over 1,000 Muslim university students received a State grant, enjoyed absolute protection and experienced the tolerant side of Hungarian society on a daily basis. The delegation stated that Hungary was home to the third largest Jewish community in the European Union.

79. The delegation stated that Hungary was very diverse regarding ethnic and national minorities, 13 of which were registered as having the right of self-governance. In 2011, during its presidency of the European Union, Hungary initiated the European Roma Strategy, which continued through the Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy and aimed to ensure that, in the areas such as education, housing and health care, the Roma minority was supported in order to be a fully integrated group in Hungarian society. Hungary was against segregation, and the delegation pointed out that, in 2014, a medium-term strategy had been established to combat segregation and integrate Roma into mainstream society, including measures concerning early school-leaving and school drop-outs.

80. The Government considered policy concerning the family, women and the protection of children as one integral issue. Women were enabled to reintegrate into the labour force after giving birth. Although there were no female ministers in the Government, there were several female State Secretaries and many women working in senior positions in the governmental and non-governmental sectors.

81. Full protection to the rights of children was provided and the Ombudsman had a very unique set of tools. The office of the representative for children's rights had been

created, which could be contacted directly by children and had the right to intervene in educational institutions and the education system.

82. Regarding violence against women, the delegation recalled that new crisis centres had been created to support victims and considered it a very important task to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention).

83. India noted with concern that the amendment to the Law on Freedom of Information had undermined the right to information in Hungary.

84. Indonesia appreciated the adoption of a new Constitution on fundamental human rights and the establishment of the interministerial human rights working group.

85. The Islamic Republic of Iran thanked Hungary for the statement delivered on the human rights achievements since the first review cycle.

86. Iraq called upon Hungary to continue efforts undertaken to develop care programmes targeting children and the elderly and to continue combating racism and hate crimes.

87. Ireland noted with concern the introduction of increasingly restrictive regulations on accreditation and funding of civil society organizations. It was concerned about reports of threats and harassment of human rights defenders in Hungary.

88. Italy welcomed the creation of the subcommittee on women's dignity as an important step in combating violence against women in Hungary.

89. Japan was concerned at reports that the media had been subjected to restrictions and political interference under the new Media Act and welcomed revisions to that Act.

90. Kazakhstan welcomed the comprehensive criminal law reform, the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the strengthening of the Ombudsperson system.

91. The Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed efforts to implement the recommendations accepted during the previous review cycle and commended Hungary for the adoption of the new Constitution.

92. Latvia was alarmed by some of the preliminary observations of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders in Hungary.

93. The State of Palestine welcomed a number of positive results that had been achieved by Hungary in ensuring the rights and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

94. Libya noted with deep satisfaction the progress that had been achieved by Hungary since the first review cycle.

95. Lithuania commended steps towards combating hate crimes by adopting new legislation that criminalizes the violation of dignity of any national, ethnic, racial or religious community.

96. Malaysia noted advances in human rights protection and stated that additional focus could be given in areas such as gender equality, combating racial discrimination and the rights of migrants.

97. Maldives appreciated the midterm report that had been submitted by Hungary and encouraged it to take a human rights-based approach in dealing with refugees.

98. Mexico acknowledged the efforts that had been made by Hungary to increase the well-being of persons with disabilities and the recent adoption of a strategy to provide alternatives to the institutionalization of persons with mental disabilities.

99. Mongolia underscored the strengthening by Hungary of the Constitutional Court and Ombudsman system, in connection with the new Constitution.

100. Montenegro noted the concerns of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regarding women belonging to minorities, who had been the subject of discrimination and ill-treatment by Hungarian law enforcement officials.

101. Morocco commended Hungary for the adoption of a new Constitution, which includes new legislative texts, and for acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

102. Namibia noted the establishment of the subcommittee on women's dignity with security of women and combating domestic violence as priority tasks.

103. The delegation stated that Hungary had a very diverse media that was in the majority of cases privately owned, and that an independent media authority was in place. In 2010, a new Media Act had been adopted and, as a result of negotiations and consultations with the Council of Europe and the European Commission, the Act had been amended in 2012. In 2015, the Act had been reviewed by the European Commission, which had come to the conclusion that some positive steps had been taken since 2011. Regarding the Media Council, its members were elected and appointed by Parliament and their mandate lasted for one parliamentary cycle.

104. Sanctions could be applied, for example, in the case where a minor is harassed on a media organ, or in the case of hate speech, or if the media is unbalanced. The delegation considered the Media Act to be in compliance with international standards, but acknowledged that that was open to discussion.

105. On the relationship with non-governmental organizations and civil society, the delegation indicated that civil society played a crucial role in public life and in the justification of public decisions. Civil society had room for criticizing the Government. The delegation underscored that the Government evaluated these critical comments and it encouraged dialogue, recalling the human rights working group, where various round-table discussions had been carried out. The delegation believed that, in the legislative procedure, non-governmental organizations had the chance to deliver their opinions.

106. The International Criminal Court was of major importance to Hungary, as it had been one of the countries that supported and ratified its Rome Statute.

107. In certain areas, addressing segregation represented a larger challenge for which it was important to adopt finely tuned measures, including collaboration with Roma organizations and churches.

108. According to the new Fundamental Law, Hungary had a new principle on persons with disabilities providing protection for their independent living. The delegation recalled the amendment of the Civil Code, which reinforced the rights of persons with disabilities. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities would be implemented with the best possible effort.

109. It was important to address issues relating to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in the context of hate speech, in order to criminalize such acts against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. The delegation considered Hungary to be in the middle ground in terms of acknowledging the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.

110. The Netherlands noted there was room for improvement on prohibiting domestic violence and marital rape and encouraged Hungary to undertake further action towards free media laws.

111. Nigeria commended the efforts concerning Roma and on extreme poverty and expressed concern about the alleged disproportionate use of force against migrants and refugees.

112. Norway acknowledged the efforts to combat hate speech and hate crime.

113. Pakistan commended recent legislations and the cooperation with the Council and treaty bodies and expressed hope that an appropriate response would be made regarding the migrant and refugee crisis.

114. Peru expressed its appreciation to Hungary for the measures taken to improve the socioeconomic conditions of families.

115. Algeria welcomed the organization since 2008 of a forum on human rights in Budapest and invited Hungary to consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

116. Poland commended Hungary for upholding its standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders.

117. Slovenia noted the positive impact of the Budapest human rights forum, welcomed steps to promote the rights of the Slovenian minority and inquired about the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

118. The Republic of Korea noted the improved human rights infrastructure and protection of vulnerable groups resulting from the follow-up to the previous review cycle.

119. The Republic of Moldova commended the creation of the Ombudsman and enhancement of child-friendly administration of justice and expressed concern about the lowered age of criminal responsibility.

120. Romania expressed appreciation for the measures taken by Hungary to protect the rights of persons of national minorities.

121. The Russian Federation welcomed the efforts made by Hungary in implementing the second action plan for the period 2015-2017 aimed at improving the conditions of people living in extreme poverty.

122. Senegal welcomed the restructuring of the Constitutional Court and the creation of the Republic Mediator.

123. Sierra Leone encouraged Hungary to raise the age of criminal responsibility and urged it to maintain a more humane asylum-seeking process.

124. Portugal welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the significant steps towards gender equality and commended it on the establishment of the interministerial human rights working group.

125. South Africa expressed concern about continued discrimination against women of ethnic minorities.

126. Spain recognized the adoption of legislation to tackle more effectively gender violence and welcomed the involvement of Hungary in the integration of persons with disabilities in the labour market.

127. The delegation of Hungary welcomed the recommendations and contributions, underscoring the importance it gave to cooperation with the United Nations and the Human Rights Council. It highlighted its commitment to the promotion of human rights and expressed its will to apply for membership of the Human Rights Council for the period 2017-2019. It stated that it would take home all of the recommendations and contributions

and would inform the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of those recommendations it could support. The delegation stated that human rights mechanisms always had room for improvement and Hungary would try to implement its pending obligations.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

128. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below will be examined by Hungary, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-third session of the Human Rights Council, in September 2016:

128.1 Widen the scope of international obligations through accession to the remaining international treaties, such as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Albania);

128.2 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Philippines);

128.3 Accept the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, in conformity with Articles 31 and 32 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);

128.4 Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana);

128.5 Become party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Conventions on the refugees and stateless persons, the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) and the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Honduras);

128.6 Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Italy) (Montenegro) (Netherlands) (Turkey) (Belgium);

128.7 Withdraw its reservation on pertinent articles of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (South Africa);

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

128.8 **Ratify the Istanbul Convention without delay (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

128.9 **Sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Turkey);**

128.10 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ecuador) (Guatemala) (Uruguay);**

128.11 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt);**

128.12 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as previously recommended (Senegal);**

128.13 **Consider acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Kazakhstan);**

128.14 **Accelerate the process of accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Mongolia);**

128.15 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Montenegro) (Sierra Leone) (Uruguay) (France);**

128.16 **Step up the process of consultations concerning the accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as previously recommended (Senegal);**

128.17 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Togo) (Portugal) (Uruguay);**

128.18 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Italy);**

128.19 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

128.20 **Fully align domestic legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court through explicit provisions on the duty to cooperate promptly and fully with the Court (Austria);**

128.21 **Continue further improvement of the protection and promotion of human rights in the country (Azerbaijan);**

128.22 **Continue to provide protection to the family as the natural and fundamental unit of the society (Egypt);**

128.23 **Develop and implement a National Action Plan on Human Rights to further ensure systematic and comprehensive approach for the promotion and protection of human rights, with the full engagement of the civil society (Indonesia);**

128.24 **Ensure that its policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively serve to prevent and address the heightened risk of business involvement in abuses in conflict situations, which includes situations of foreign occupation (State of Palestine);**

128.25 **Step up efforts to establish a mechanism to monitor measures to help address and ameliorate the conditions of women and children (Philippines);**

128.26 **Assess the compatibility of its policies and laws with its international obligations including all core principles of human rights to which Hungary is a party (Ethiopia);**

128.27 **Continue the efforts to harmonize national legislation with international standards in the field of human rights (Morocco);**

128.28 **Continue to promote and protect the fundamental freedoms and human rights of all its citizens (Nigeria);**

128.29 **Deepen its commitment with the International Criminal Court through adapting its national legislation to the Rome Statute (Peru);**

128.30 **Consider developing Human Rights Indicators as suggested by OHCHR as an instrument that allows for a more precise and coherent evaluation of national human rights policies (Portugal);**

128.31 **Consider increasing the funding of the National Preventive Mechanism, in order to support its work and the detention monitoring activities (Croatia);**

128.32 **Provide adequate resources and functional independence to the Equal Treatment Authority (India);**

128.33 **Continue to implement measures to protect the rights of the child (Tajikistan);**

128.34 **Enhance measures to protect the rights of children, women and other vulnerable groups (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

128.35 **Consider establishing independent mechanism for monitoring children's rights and providing necessary financial resources for its functioning (Poland);**

128.36 **Ensure consultation processes which allow a public debate and interaction with the independent civil society, with sufficient time during the drafting of new laws and public policies (Switzerland);**

128.37 **Engage in consultation with pro-transparency organizations and other relevant stakeholders prior to developing or implementing new legislation on Freedom of Information (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

128.38 **Refrain from targeting or restricting the activities of civil society organizations based on their political affiliation or their receipt of foreign funding (Australia);**

128.39 **Adopt measures to comply with provisions of the new Constitution including on combating discrimination and ensuring equal participation in political and public affairs by all citizens (Botswana);**

128.40 **Improve both formal and informal dialogue and public consultation between the Government and civil society, including on proposed legislation with an impact on human rights (Czech Republic);**

128.41 **Continue with the efforts aimed at ensuring timely cooperation with treaty bodies, regarding the submission of its overdue national reports (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

128.42 **Submit overdue reports to Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to the Human Rights Committee (Ukraine);**

128.43 **Intensify efforts aimed at implementing recommendations of treaty bodies and special procedures, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (Ukraine);**

128.44 **Take appropriate measures to progressively reduce the existing backlog of overdue reports to the United Nations treaty bodies (Kazakhstan);**

128.45 **Submit overdue reports to the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee against Torture (Sierra Leone);**

128.46 **Continue to strengthen measures to promote tolerance and respect for cultural diversity and to counter prejudice, stereotypes, discrimination, racism and Islamophobia (United Arab Emirates);**

128.47 **Reconsider policies on family, gender equality and non-discrimination (Bahrain);**

128.48 **Continue efforts to sensitize the public to combat discrimination on all grounds online to ensure that all rights are respected (Croatia);**

128.49 **Continue efforts in following up and monitoring any discrimination based on sex, race or any other form (Ethiopia);**

128.50 **Continue to implement National Social Inclusion Strategy (Pakistan);**

128.51 **Take all the necessary measures to fully implement the National Social Inclusion Strategy (Slovenia);**

128.52 **Enact comprehensive legislation that fully guarantees the application of the principle of non-discrimination and to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights by every member of society (South Africa);**

128.53 **Intensify activities aimed at overcoming gender stereotypes (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

128.54 **Take effective measures to address the needs of women belonging to minorities, such as Roma women, in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination against them (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

128.55 **Provide the national mechanism for the promotion of gender equality of adequate human and financial resources to enable it to effectively fulfil its mandate (Togo);**

128.56 **Address the discriminatory situation of women belonging to minorities, including Roma women (Bangladesh);**

128.57 **Take further measures to reduce the inequality between sexes, sensitize the population in this regard and ensure that these measures are effectively implemented (Belgium);**

128.58 **Continue to take action towards a comprehensive gender equality strategy and introduce effective legislative measures to increase women's participation in political life and decision-making (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

128.59 **Redouble its efforts towards combating stereotypical division of gender roles in family and society (India);**

128.60 **Adopt a comprehensive law on domestic violence (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

128.61 **Take further steps to address root causes that affect the rights of women belonging to disadvantaged groups (Latvia);**

128.62 **Take concrete measures to improve access to decent work for all women, eliminate all discrimination against women at work, and create more socioeconomic opportunities for disenfranchised women (Malaysia);**

128.63 **Introduce effective legislative measures to increase women's participation in political life and decision-making (Namibia);**

128.64 **Continue to make efforts to ensure women's participation in political life and in decision-making (Pakistan);**

128.65 **Establish effective legislative measures, such as quotas, to improve the participation of women in political life and decision-making processes (Algeria);**

128.66 **Adopt a comprehensive, human rights-based gender equality strategy (Slovenia);**

128.67 **Continue the implementation of Roma integration policies in all social economic cultural political and educational sectors (Lebanon);**

128.68 **Support the gender integration in all spheres of life (Tajikistan);**

128.69 **Strengthen its measures to combat racism and discrimination in all its forms against migrants and asylum seekers (Thailand);**

128.70 **Take all necessary measures to eliminate racial discrimination and segregation of Roma in education (Timor-Leste);**

128.71 **Implement a comprehensive plan of action envisaged to protect the rights and improve the life conditions of women and children pertaining to ethnic minorities (Uruguay);**

128.72 **Step up the efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and favour equality of opportunities and treatment, with special care and attention to those who are in a more vulnerable situation, such as persons belonging to the Roma community (Argentina);**

128.73 **Step up efforts to address discrimination and social exclusion faced by persons belonging to the Roma minority with particular emphasis on integrated schooling and social housing (Austria);**

128.74 **Establish a comprehensive integration strategy for migrants, with specific measures to prevent and eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance against migrants irrespective of their status (Bangladesh);**

128.75 **Continue to pay special attention to issues related to the elimination of discrimination of the Roma who study in the education system (Belarus);**

128.76 **Take measures to eliminate any discrimination and segregation in the education system against Roma children (Belgium);**

128.77 **Take effective measures to ensure the Hungarian National Police and the hate-crimes expert net improve the enforcement of laws against hate crimes, including by allocating sufficient resources; undertaking thorough investigations and prosecution; and by providing training for the front-line law enforcement (Canada);**

128.78 **Protect persons who are marginalized and most vulnerable from intolerance, xenophobia, and other forms of discrimination (Canada);**

128.79 **Lift the measures in force that imply the discrimination and rejection of migrants and refugees, in particular those concerning to the use of force against them (Cuba);**

128.80 **Continue to take specific measures to prevent and eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance against migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (Egypt);**

128.81 **Take resolute measures to put an end, without further delay, to the continuing segregation of Roma children at school (Finland);**

128.82 **Take active measures to prevent actual segregation of Roma students in public and private schools (Germany);**

128.83 **Redouble efforts to prevent and eliminate racial discrimination, xenophobia and the intolerance against migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (Guatemala);**

128.84 **Undertake further steps to promote efforts to overcome residual social discrimination against Roma and other ethnic minorities (Holy See);**

128.85 **Take effective steps to end discrimination against Roma in education, health, employment, housing and access to services with a special focus on ending continued segregation of Roma children at schools (India);**

128.86 **Strengthen its efforts to promote tolerance and cultural understanding of the Roma population in the aim of eliminating discrimination including in regard to access to education and employment and participation in politics (Japan);**

128.87 **Step up efforts to effectively prevent and combat discrimination of persons belonging to national minorities, in particular regarding their access to education and health care (Kazakhstan);**

128.88 **Take further steps to eliminate discrimination against the Roma population, especially in the field of education, health, employment, housing and access to services (Namibia);**

128.89 **Intensify efforts to combat discrimination and ill-treatment of Roma and eliminate segregation of Roma girls in the educational system (Nigeria);**

128.90 **Take measures to prevent and eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and others (Nigeria);**

128.91 **Continue the work to further social and economic integration of the Roma population, reduce direct and indirect school segregation of Roma children and actively promote Roma participation in society through education (Norway);**

128.92 **Continue its efforts to integrate the adult Roma population in the labour market and the Roma children and young people in the regular education system (Peru);**

128.93 Ensure that, in the context of the new legislation adopted in 2011, following the 2011 universal periodic review recommendations, the self-governments truly represent the persons of national minorities on whose behalf they act (Romania);

128.94 Include specific components in public policies and budgets to address the needs of persons belonging to minorities, including Roma women and children (South Africa);

128.95 Adopt more policies and allocate more resources specifically directed towards Roma women and children (Spain);

128.96 Continue the efforts to combat hate speech, racism, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination against refugees and migrants (Lebanon);

128.97 Carry out the work to eliminate expressions of hatred, racial and religious discrimination (Tajikistan);

128.98 Intensify national efforts to prevent and eliminate all manifestations of anti-Semitism and take resolute measures to condemn hate speech, including against Roma (Albania);

128.99 Take action against the worrying increase and public use of hate speech, most often addressed at migrants, asylum seekers but also civil society organizations and vulnerable groups (Austria);

128.100 Intensify its efforts to combat xenophobia, islamophobia and refugee hatred, and take the necessary measures to condemn hate speech (Bahrain);

128.101 Take resolute measures to condemn hate speech, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance against all minority groups, migrants and asylum seekers (Bulgaria);

128.102 Apply effectively policies against racism and hate speech (China);

128.103 Implement effectively its legislation and policies against hate speech and hate crimes with particular focus on the human rights protection of Roma, Jews, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and other vulnerable groups (Czech Republic);

128.104 Ensure that the constitutional amendment prohibiting speech that would violate the dignity of the Hungarian nation cannot be used to silence criticism and limit freedom of expression as guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Czech Republic);

128.105 Take all the necessary measures to combat violence linked to racial discrimination, as well as hate crimes and speeches, including against refugees and migrants (France);

128.106 Cease anti-immigration campaigns and rhetoric of incitement to hatred, xenophobia and anti-Semitism and take measures to fight against hate speech and hate crimes in general (Greece);

128.107 Adopt a hate crime investigation protocol and ensure that victims of hate crimes have effective access to the mechanisms of justice and redress (Islamic Republic of Iran);

128.108 Identify efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and to ensure that hate crimes motivated by racism, xenophobia or other forms of discrimination are effectively investigated and perpetrators are brought to justice (Italy);

128.109 Further step up efforts to publicly condemn hate speech, including against Roma (Lithuania);

128.110 Enhance inter-ethnic, inter-religious, and inter-cultural understanding within the society, and ensure access to justice for victims of racial hatred or violence (Malaysia);

128.111 Further strengthen measures to combat hate speech and hate crime (Norway);

128.112 Strengthen measures to avoid hate speeches of all kinds in political messages and in the media (Peru);

128.113 Combat hate speech and statements stigmatizing refugees and asylum seekers (Algeria);

128.114 Prevent and combat racism and hate speech, including through human rights education and training, and by promoting tolerance (Slovenia);

128.115 Enhance its efforts to prevent and root out all kind of national and ethnic intolerance, as well as condemn any incitement to ethnic and religious hatred and hate speech against the Roma in particular (Russian Federation);

128.116 Implement strategies aimed at tackling hate speech and xenophobia in all its forms (Sierra Leone);

128.117 Continue to fight anti-Semitism, and to oppose any attempt to relativize or rehabilitate anti-Semite policies in the past and present (Germany);

128.118 Adopt and implement a comprehensive strategy and action plan to tackle discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Australia);

128.119 Adopt a strategy and a comprehensive plan of action to counter discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);

128.120 Take comprehensive measures to counter discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Colombia);

128.121 Fight against discrimination based on the origin, gender and sexual orientation, by continuing its efforts in the implementation of the existing instruments (France);

128.122 Adopt a comprehensive strategy in order to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Greece);

128.123 Raise the legal age of marriage for women and men to 18 years (Maldives);

128.124 Follow the recommendations of the 2014 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe election observation mission's final report (United States of America);

128.125 Reinstate juvenile courts and raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years, for all crimes, in line with international standards (Botswana);

128.126 Amend the legislation on the protection of families in order to widen the definition of family (Brazil);

128.127 Intensify efforts to prevent overcrowding in prisons (Chile);

128.128 Take measures to address the persistence of preventive detention in police centres and the high risk of ill-treatment (Cuba);

128.129 Reduce the length of the initial pretrial detention phase (Turkey);

128.130 Consider adopting a law on domestic violence and criminalizing different types of violence against women (Turkey);

128.131 Take additional measures to effectively combat violence against women and promote the participation of women in political life and their insertion in the professional life (France);

128.132 Continue efforts, including by raising awareness, in order to prevent domestic violence and violence against women (Georgia);

128.133 Promote public policies to prevent violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and sexual violence (Mexico);

128.134 Strengthen efforts to combat violence against women, inter alia, by ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Poland);

128.135 Establish a law to criminalize all forms of violence against women (Sierra Leone);

128.136 Adopt a National Action Plan on Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security (Portugal);

128.137 Define rape criminally based on the lack of voluntary consent in addition to reinforcing and making more accessible to victims the health-care services (Spain);

128.138 Criminalize different types of violence against women, to amend the Criminal Code to ensure that rape is defined according to the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Lithuania);

128.139 Take concrete measures to protect child victims of sexual exploitation and prostitution (Maldives);

128.140 Abandon the practice of corporal punishment of children and encourage non-violent forms of discipline (Poland);

128.141 Consider raising the age of criminal responsibility from 12 to 14 years, even for the most serious crimes (Republic of Korea);

128.142 Enact laws and legislation aiming at combating human trafficking (Lebanon);

128.143 Ensure the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of human trafficking, and provide adequate assistance and protection services to victims (Turkey);

128.144 Continue its efforts in order to strengthen the protection of victims of trafficking (Azerbaijan);

128.145 Take steps to reduce and prevent trafficking and provide adequate incentives and protection to victims (Bulgaria);

128.146 Take additional measures to combat trafficking in human beings (France);

128.147 Intensify efforts to effectively prevent trafficking in women and girls and strengthen measures for the rehabilitation and social integration of victims of trafficking (Georgia);

128.148 Take measures to ensure the effective investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases and establish remedy procedures for the victims (Greece);

128.149 Strengthen mechanisms to prevent the trafficking in boys and girls and provide the support needed for victims of trafficking to be reintegrated into society (Mexico);

128.150 Take concrete measures to ensure the independence of the Constitutional Court and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and that political pressure is not being applied to judicial decision-making (Sweden);

128.151 Implement reforms on judicial independence and rule of law recommended by the International Bar Association Human Rights Institute in 2015 (United States of America);

128.152 Continue to pursue implementation of the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary and repeal all provisions of national law that restrict the Constitutional Court's jurisdiction (Australia);

128.153 Take necessary measures for strengthening its specialized juvenile justice system in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Republic of Moldova);

128.154 Continue efforts for the reintegration of former child offenders in the society (Republic of Moldova);

128.155 Remedy the shortcomings in the media law as expressed by the Venice Commission (Sweden);

128.156 Revise transparency laws to reinstate a freedom of information parliamentary ombudsman, and ex ante reclaiming of labour costs for processing information requests, and limit public institutions' authority to refuse access to public data (United States of America);

128.157 Take concrete steps to promote pluralism of the media and their independent work, including the exercise of their watchdog function (Czech Republic);

128.158 Take the necessary measures to promote media pluralism and fight threats against freedom of the press and freedom of expression (France);

128.159 Take appropriate measures to further relax restrictions on the freedom of the media (Japan);

128.160 Amend the media law in line with previous recommendations to ensure that all media laws are in line with the right to freedom of opinion and expression (Netherlands);

128.161 Give full consideration to the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

128.162 Take measures allowing the exercise of the lawful activities of human rights defenders, in a favourable legal and administrative environment (Colombia);

128.163 **Implement recommendations made by Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and association regarding governmental oversight and regulations of non-governmental organizations (Germany);**

128.164 **Review and abolish all legal provisions that restrict the rights of human rights defenders promoting the rights of the Roma community (Iceland);**

128.165 **Ensure the prompt and independent investigation of all alleged violations against human rights defenders (Ireland);**

128.166 **Positively consider and implement the recommendations presented by the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders (Libya);**

128.167 **Remove all administrative and legislative provisions that restrict the rights of Human Rights Defenders and ensure that civil society organizations can operate freely and without discrimination or undue restriction (Norway);**

128.168 **Take steps to ensure that civil society organizations freely can access and utilize funding, including from foreign sources (Norway);**

128.169 **Maintain its commitment to the realization of the right to work for all including through technical and vocational training for young people (Egypt);**

128.170 **Provide greater support for poor families and children and reduce social inequality (China);**

128.171 **Take further steps to ensure better labour market access and access to basic social and health services for marginalized women, including women with disabilities, Roma women and migrant women (Republic of Korea);**

128.172 **Continue to enhance access to sexual and reproductive health services for women, in particular women with disabilities, women with low income, women with HIV/AIDS, and women living in the rural areas (Thailand);**

128.173 **Effectively implement ongoing national policy to guarantee quality education for minority (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

128.174 **Ensure that the standards of education in national minorities' languages as well as teaching of minorities languages are the same as the general standards of education in the country (Romania);**

128.175 **Ensure that the implementation of objectives set up in the 2014 National Strategy on Public Education are in line with the objectives and goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (United Arab Emirates);**

128.176 **Ensure the inclusion of human rights and especially children's rights in the public education system, raising awareness about human rights in general (Greece);**

128.177 **Strengthen efforts to provide access to education, labour market and public life for persons with disabilities (Holy See);**

128.178 **Continue the path regarding positive results achieved in ensuring the rights and equal opportunities of persons with disabilities by, inter alia, allocating sufficient resources for the development of an inclusive education system for children with disabilities and providing sufficient and adequate support services in local communities to enable persons with disabilities to live independently (State of Palestine);**

128.179 Review all relevant legislations, including the State's new Fundamental Law to ensure that all persons with disabilities have a right to vote, and that they can participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others (Lithuania);

128.180 Review legislations to ensure that all persons with disabilities have a right to vote, and that they can participate in political and public life (Maldives);

128.181 Consolidate programmes to ensure a system of inclusive education for children with disabilities throughout the country (Mexico);

128.182 Take further measures to improve access of persons with disabilities to social, economic and cultural life and combat discrimination on the grounds of disability (Poland);

128.183 Adopt measures in order for any health decision to depend upon the free and informed consent of the concerned disabled person (Spain);

128.184 Take all steps necessary to ensure that the right to seek asylum is guaranteed for asylum seekers coming to Hungary and that the principle of non-refoulement is respected (Sweden);

128.185 Decriminalize the access to its territory for persons wishing to file a request for asylum, and process the asylum applications individually and in a non-discriminatory fashion, in compliance with its international obligations (Switzerland);

128.186 Ensure that migrant and asylum-seeking women receive adequate assistance (Timor-Leste);

128.187 Eliminate detention in penitentiary establishments of asylum seekers and refugees (Uruguay);

128.188 Advance in measures of assistance and promotion of the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, in compliance with current international standards (Argentina);

128.189 Reform its legislation to ensure full respect of the principle of non-refoulement (Brazil);

128.190 Ensure that its legal framework and actions concerning asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants comply with Hungary's international human rights obligations, including with regard to procedural safeguards. This includes repealing those amendments to Hungary's Asylum Law, Law on Criminal Procedure and Criminal Code that are inconsistent with its international human rights obligations (Canada);

128.191 Seek alternatives to detaining asylum seekers and migrants, particularly children. Take immediate and effective measures to ensure that conditions of detention are fully consistent with Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Canada);

128.192 Develop actions that improve the living conditions of asylum seekers and prevent discrimination on the grounds of nationality or country of origin (Chile);

128.193 Continue to improve the living conditions of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (China);

128.194 **Ensure the inclusion of a human rights approach in the measures to address the migrant situation, taking into particular account the situation of vulnerable population (Colombia);**

128.195 **Apply a dignified and human treatment that respects the universal principles of human rights for people in situation of human mobility, whether migrants or refugees, with special emphasis on strengthening and implementing policies to address trafficking of persons from a holistic approach , particularly regarding women, children and other vulnerable groups, as well as to combat all forms of discrimination, with measures including complaint an denunciation mechanisms for victims that enable them to achieve reparations (Ecuador);**

128.196 **Ensure that all issues related to migration, asylum seeking and border management are addressed in accordance with respective obligations under applicable international law (Egypt);**

128.197 **Fully respect its obligations under international law by guaranteeing the right to seek asylum through an individual, effective process without discrimination (Finland);**

128.198 **Improve the capacity to guarantee every person the possibility to request international protection in a legal way, and create conditions for the medical and psychological treatment of asylum seekers, especially those who were victims of torture and violence (Germany);**

128.199 **Fully implement international Conventions and standards for the protection of refugees and asylum seekers (Greece);**

128.200 **Actively participate in the refugee resettlement/humanitarian admission process directly from Turkey to the European Union, as this is actually the only way to save lives and crack down criminal networks of smugglers (Greece);**

128.201 **Take immediate action to improve national asylum system, including by elaborating a national action plan, to avoid continuation of harsh conditions of detention and treatment of asylum seekers and refugees (Greece);**

128.202 **Ensure the prompt and impartial investigation of any excessive use of force in policing the border operations, including by the military (Greece);**

128.203 **Work together with the other European States to improve the conditions and treatment given to asylum seekers and refugees (Guatemala);**

128.204 **Make every effort to pay due attention to the human rights of asylum seekers and to avoid using disproportionate force on migrants and refugees (Holy See);**

128.205 **Redouble efforts in order to guarantee the respect of the human rights of migrants, including persons under irregular situation (Honduras);**

128.206 **Implement with no exception the principle of non-refoulement in the context of asylum seeking procedures (Honduras);**

128.207 **Repeal the amendments to the Criminal Code that criminalizes "illegal entry" and introduces "transit zone" at the border and a list of "safe countries" (Iceland);**

128.208 **Comply with the principle of non-refoulement (Iceland);**

128.209 **Take measures to work towards improving the living conditions for refugees and asylum seekers (India);**

128.210 **Strengthen efforts in addressing issues of irregular migrants in the country in line with international human rights law obligations (Indonesia);**

128.211 **Improve the living conditions of asylum seekers and step up efforts directed towards improving the treatment of asylum seekers and refugees (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

128.212 **Take all the necessary steps to address the placing of asylum-seeking and migrant children in detention, including by repealing relevant legislation allowing for the detention of families accompanied by children (Ireland);**

128.213 **Review legislation on the rights of migrants and asylum seekers in accordance with Hungary's obligations under international and European Law and to better apply existing internal rules, namely those related to the handling of unaccompanied children (Italy);**

128.214 **Make efforts to ensure transparency and consideration for human rights, in particular those of women and children, in its treatment of migrants and refugees (Japan);**

128.215 **Ensure that enforcement authorities comply with international human rights obligations in the treatment of migrants and asylum seekers, and expedite the judicial process to avoid prolonged detention of migrants and asylum seekers (Malaysia);**

128.216 **Continue the efforts to improve the treatment of migrants and asylum seekers (Morocco);**

128.217 **Take steps to ensure that detention of asylum-seekers is used only in exceptional cases, the procedure for detention is transparent and comprehensible, and that detainees have acces to effective legal remedy (Norway);**

128.218 **Continue to fulfil its international human rights obligations regarding asylum seekers, refugees and migrants (Pakistan);**

128.219 **Strengthen its efforts to improve the detention conditions of migrants and asylum seekers, including by refraining from excessive use of force, ill-treatment, and prolongation of detention periods; and also to adopt a comprehensive integration strategy for their early stage integration (Republic of Korea);**

128.220 **Revise the national list of safe countries in order to avoid the high number of unadmitted requests that have been pointed out by the Helsinki Committee of Hungary (Spain);**

128.221 **Increase level of ODA (Bangladesh).**

129. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Hungary was headed by H.E. Mr. László Trócsányi and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Dr. Zsuzsanna HORVÁTH, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations in Geneva;
- H.E. Mr. István NAGY, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Hungary in Bern;
- Mr. Zoltán Ádám KOVÁCS, Deputy State Secretary for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary;
- Ms. Ágnes HEVESI, Human Rights Ambassador, Deputy Head of Department for International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary;
- Mr. Balázs RÁTKAI, Human Rights Advisor, Department for International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary;
- Ms. Édua MINISKA, Head of Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary;
- Mr. Gergely PRŐHLE, Deputy State Secretary for International and European Union Affairs, Ministry of Human Capacities of Hungary;
- Mr. Árpád MÉSZÁROS, Head of Department, Ministry of Human Capacities of Hungary;
- Ms. Zsuzsa SEBESTYÉN, Equality Advisor, Ministry of Human Capacities of Hungary;
- Mr. András MÁZI, Head of Department, Ministry of Justice of Hungary;
- Mr. Zoltán TALLÓDI, Deputy Head of Department, Ministry of Justice of Hungary;
- Mr. Gábor KALETA, Head of Department, Ministry of Justice of Hungary;
- Mr. Tivadar RÉVFY, Deputy Head of Department, Ministry of Justice of Hungary;
- Ms. Anikó RAISZ, Advisor, Ministry of Justice of Hungary;
- Ms. Christine SIMONART, Advisor, Ministry of Justice of Hungary;
- Ms. Viktória SZABÓ-PRINCZ, Advisor, Ministry of Justice of Hungary;
- Mr. Péter STAUBER, Head of Department of European Cooperation, Ministry of Interior of Hungary;
- Mr. Alex KAJTÁR, Interpreter, Ministry of Justice of Hungary;
- Ms. Dorottya SLATER, Interpreter, Ministry of Justice of Hungary;
- Mr. András SZŐRÉNYI, First Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations in Geneva;
- Ms. Anita SZILÁGYI, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations in Geneva.

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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Papua New Guinea

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

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Contents

		Page
	Introduction	3
I.	Summary of the proceedings of the review process	3
	A. Presentation by the State under review	3
	B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review	8
II.	Conclusions and/or recommendations	13
Annex		
	Composition of the delegation	24

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-fifth session from 2 to 13 May 2016. The review of Papua New Guinea was held at the 7th meeting on 6 May 2016. The delegation of Papua New Guinea was headed by the Chargé d'Affaires, Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations, Fred Sarufa. At its 17th meeting, held on 11 May 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Papua New Guinea.

2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Papua New Guinea: Belgium, Namibia and Viet Nam.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Papua New Guinea:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/25/PNG/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/25/PNG/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/25/PNG/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by the Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America was transmitted to Papua New Guinea through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation highlighted the nexus between recently adopted landmark multilaterally agreed frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the clear recognition of the importance of safeguarding and advancing fundamental human rights principles and values, which also served as catalyst to improving the well-being and livelihoods of humanity.

6. In the global multilateral agreements, Papua New Guinea clearly recognized that the safeguarding and advancement of human rights was a cross-cutting issue.

7. The delegation also recognized the country's strengths and challenges in terms of human rights protection, referring to the universal periodic review as a robust global checks and balance mechanism.

8. One of the fundamental differences between the first universal periodic review of Papua New Guinea in 2011 and the second in 2016 was that its population had increased by over seven and half million citizens. Hence, Papua New Guinea had the challenge of ensuring that the inherent and fundamental human rights of all its citizens and expatriate visitors alike were respected, upheld and promoted.

9. The Constitution of Papua New Guinea underpinned the protection and promotion of human rights as an enduring and sacrosanct principle and the country remained steadfastly committed thereto. The Constitution encompassed all the rights and freedoms articulated in the Charter of the United Nations and, particularly, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Human rights and freedoms were also subject to the respect for the rights and freedoms of other persons and legitimate public interests.

10. As Papua New Guinea embarked on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and other global agreements for a prosperous, secure, healthy, peaceful and progressive nation consistent with its "Vision 2050" plan and other existing national development plans, strategies and polices, the importance of ensuring the fundamental and inherent rights of citizens continued to remain central.

11. The delegation referred to the key pillars to realizing the enhancement of human rights and freedoms while guaranteeing the Sustainable Development Goals, which included ensuring respect for the rule of law, good governance, human and institutional capacity-building to safeguard and promote human rights, sustained economic growth, promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies and protection of the natural environment and combating climate change. It also included fostering genuine and durable multi-stakeholder development partnership, guided by national ownership and leadership on human rights protection and promotion and the national development agenda.

12. At the global level, the efforts of Papua New Guinea to safeguard and protect human rights were consistent with and guided by its international commitments and obligations under several multilateral frameworks, including core human rights instruments.

13. The delegation referred to the country's main human rights achievements since its previous universal periodic review in 2011. Papua New Guinea had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 26 September 2013. To guide the implementation of the Convention, the National Disability Policy (2015-2025) had been established. In addition, sign language had been introduced as one of the national languages for all government programmes and an office had been set up to support the implementation of the Convention. A database project was also being developed as part of an international development partnership.

14. On the issue of the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, in 2013, Papua New Guinea had expressed its intention to withdraw all of its seven reservations thereto. The process was pending completion of domestic formalities. The new National Refugee Policy had been inaugurated in October 2015 and guided the country's efforts in relation to refugees. The country's approach included cooperation with Australia in relation to the Manus Processing Centre for asylum seekers, in the light of the recent decision of the Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea declaring the transfer and detention of the asylum seekers as unconstitutional.

15. Papua New Guinea was also working towards ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the ratification of which was expected to take place soon. Similarly, a process to ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, had already started.

16. In 2013, Papua New Guinea had criminalized trafficking in persons in its domestic Criminal Code and established the Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons (2015-2020) and standard operating procedures for the identification, referral and prosecution of human trafficking cases in the country. Both the Action Plan and the standard operating procedures were awaiting Cabinet approval. Papua New Guinea was working closely with national and international partners to implement policies in a strategic and effective way.

17. Additionally, Papua New Guinea intended to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

18. The recommendations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities would be considered in the context of national legislation.

19. Papua New Guinea continued to constructively engage with the human rights special procedure mandate holders. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions had visited the country in March 2012 and March 2014, respectively. Papua New Guinea was also considering the visit request from the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants.

20. The respective recommendations of the Special Rapporteurs who had visited the country were being considered by Papua New Guinea and, in certain areas, including detainees' treatment and gender-based violence, specific national actions were well under way. For example, Papua New Guinea had instituted human rights training for law enforcement officers with commendable support from the International Committee of the Red Cross and Australia. It had also enacted the Juvenile Justice Act in 2014, which safeguarded juveniles, particularly women and girls in custody or detention. Gender-based violence had been addressed in 2013 through the enactment of the Family Protection Act, which had provided a strong basis for protecting women from violence.

21. The delegation stressed the absence of credible official data and statistics on violence against women and girls and gender-based violence in the country, which needed to be addressed. However, general prevalence rates indicated that those human rights concerns were still at an unacceptable level and they thus continued to be of serious concern to Papua New Guinea. There was no place for violence against women and girls and gender-based violence in the country's communities and homes. Elimination of such human rights violations was a core focus and must be a matter for all and not just for the Government. Papua New Guinea was strengthening efforts at all levels to ensure that all citizens promoted women and girls and protected them from violence of any form and that women and girls were treated with dignity and respect. Papua New Guinea was committed to addressing that important issue. Advocacy and awareness-raising programmes were still needed. However, challenges were real as resource and capacity constraints were serious impediments that required appropriate support.

22. Papua New Guinea had prioritized and was committed to combating violence against women and girls and gender-based violence at all levels. Efforts in that regard included the application of the Lukautim Pikinini (Child) (Amendment) Act 2014, which criminalized underage marriage (of children under 18 years old), while the Criminal Code provided for the criminalization of marital rape and attempted rape.

23. In addition, the establishment, with the generous support of development partners, throughout the country of 17 family support centres and sexual violence centres was a helpful tool in the campaign against gender-based violence. Creating an enabling environment by linking police and health work in the context of gender-based violence was contributing to the access to justice, medical care and services and the rehabilitation and recovery of victims of gender-based violence. Moreover, complementary and commendable supportive work against gender-based violence was provided by civil society in the country, especially in urban areas, where "Haus Ruth" safe houses were provided for short-term protection and accommodation for victims.

24. Furthermore, a key measure in combating gender-based violence that Papua New Guinea had taken was the enhancement of gender equality and empowerment policies,

strategies and the establishment of a multisectoral technical working group mandated to develop a sexual and gender-based violence strategy, resulting in the development of the new Gender-Based Violence National Strategy (2015-2025), which was in its final stages of Cabinet approval.

25. Papua New Guinea was also in the process of reviewing its laws to protect women and girls against discrimination and gender-based violence and to foster gender equality and empowerment; that included the ongoing work related to harmonization of domestic laws with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

26. In 2013, the National Public Service had established the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy, which was a platform for mainstreaming and empowering women and girls within the public service. It was also aimed at protecting women and girls from gender-based violence, abuse and exploitation in professional settings.

27. The delegation also referred to the establishment of the Women's Micro Bank and the National Development Bank as important achievements in empowering women in business leadership and decision-making. Also, in partnership with development partners such as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and Australia, the "Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls" initiative had been promoted at markets and on public transport for women and girls.

28. In the context of women's political representation, leadership and decision-making in Parliament and the lower levels of government and administration in Papua New Guinea, the delegation underlined the positive progress made, including measures to support gender equality and empowerment, the development of a constitutional amendment for equality and participation to increase women's representation in Parliament and the Bill on Equality and Participation, which was pending in Parliament. The Organic Law on Provincial and Local-Level Governments already provided for the nomination of women to be represented at the provincial and local levels. Moreover, in 2013, the National Council of Women Act was enacted, providing for equal participation of women in political and public affairs.

29. Since 2012, Papua New Guinea had three elected female leaders to the National Parliament, one of whom was a Cabinet Minister holding the portfolio that dealt with women and girls' affairs and another was a Governor of one of the most populous provinces in the country. At the provincial and local government levels, there had been a marked increase in women in leadership positions. At the judicial level, the number of female judges appointed to the higher courts had also increased from one to five since before 2011. While positive progress was being made in that area, further efforts were needed.

30. On the issue of sorcery-related killings, a multi-stakeholder approach had been taken, in addition to the repeal of the 1971 Sorcery Act in 2012 and the enactment of a related law in 2014 that criminalized killings related to sorcery. The passing of that law had to be supported by other appropriate measures, including advocacy and awareness-raising.

31. The National Action Plan against Sorcery- and Witchcraft-related Violence had been approved in 2015 and further supported by the establishment of national and provincial committees to ensure implementation of both the Law and the Plan.

32. Papua New Guinea was also making efforts to respect the rights of children, including the adoption of the Lukautim Pikinini (Child) (Amendment) Act 2014, enacted to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the country. Papua New Guinea had also enacted the Juvenile Justice Act in 2014 to ensure that child offenders, particularly girls, were protected and to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society for a productive and healthy life.

33. Furthermore, since 2012, Papua New Guinea had abolished tuition fees for universal primary education and subsidized secondary and tertiary education.

34. An important initiative that Papua New Guinea had embarked upon in 2014 was ensuring that all children were registered at birth under the National Identity Project.

35. To further enforce the ban on corporal punishment against children, Papua New Guinea was strengthening efforts to implement the Behaviour Management Policy, adopted in 2009.

36. In the context of the nexus between law, justice and human rights, 2016 had been declared by the Police Department as the year of discipline and zero tolerance against unlawful conduct and abuse of authority and power by all law enforcement officers. Disciplinary measures had already been instituted against law enforcement officers. Human rights training was an ongoing and integral part of the exercise, with support for such training provided by the Ombudsman Commission and development partners, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and OHCHR.

37. Another important recent development was the establishment in 2011 of the "human rights track" within the national courts in Papua New Guinea to deal with enforcement of human rights issues under the Constitution, including providing remedies for violations and abuses. That initiative included simplification of court proceedings that were solely focused on human rights and provision for justice to be expeditiously provided.

38. Through the work of the law and justice sector, access to justice in rural and remote communities had now been provided thanks to the establishment of over 1,600 village courts and the appointment of over 16,000 village court officials, including peace officers, who were on the public sector payroll.

39. On the issue of combating corruption, a constitutional amendment establishing the Independent Commission against Corruption had been adopted in 2012 and, in 2015, the organic law for the establishment for the Commission had been brought before the National Parliament for consideration. Papua New Guinea was committed to combating corruption, including through the establishment of the Commission.

40. The commitment of Papua New Guinea to establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) remained steadfast and the country was working towards that end.

41. The lack of human and institutional capacity remained an ongoing challenge, which would require strengthening efforts at the national level, including appropriate technical and capacity-building training on key human rights issues. It would also require breaking down internal silos to ensure coherent and coordinated efforts to follow-up reporting and related activities. In addition, simplifying reporting templates for the various human rights conventions would be highly useful. While expressing its commitment to fulfilling international obligations, the delegation indicated that the challenge related to ratifying core human rights instruments was the reporting obligations, which were not easy to implement, and that Papua New Guinea required capacity-building to be in a position to improve its reporting.

42. Resource constraints continued to be an impediment to fully implementing human rights commitments and obligations. Papua New Guinea stood ready to work with all development partners who were willing to support the country to enhance human rights progress.

43. Furthermore, the inadequacy of credible and accurate data and statistics on human rights issues in the country — compounded by the absence of centralized data storage and

an analytical medium — remained a major challenge. Papua New Guinea would welcome appropriate technical, financial and other resources and support from development partners in the collection and interpretation of human rights data and statistics.

44. The rich diversity of Papua New Guinea in terms of multilingualism, cultures and traditions, as well as geographic terrain, created barriers to effective communication related to translating and transcribing human rights issues countrywide.

45. Regarding the death penalty, it was not illegal under international law and for Papua New Guinea it was part of its domestic law. A de facto moratorium, as suggested by several States, was a sensitive issue.

46. Regarding the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, the issue needed to be understood by the population. A national consultation process was required in order to address the issue in a comprehensive way.

47. Regarding the right to health, Papua New Guinea was aware of its high rates of maternal mortality and complications related to pregnancy. The country was also aware that it had not achieved the target of the Millennium Development Goals to reduce maternal and child mortality rates. In that regard, a number of initiatives has been put in place, such as providing free primary health care and services to all citizens and training to health-care officers.

48. The delegation furthermore referred to the country's five key priorities at national level, namely health, education, economic growth, law and justice, and infrastructure.

49. On the subject of agricultural and business leases, Papua New Guinea had held a commission of inquiry. Subsequently, legislative amendments had been proposed to give effect to the commission's recommendations.

50. Lastly, Papua New Guinea thanked all the delegations for their recommendations, questions and comments and commended the secretariat of the Human Rights Council for its work in support of the universal periodic review process.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

51. The United States of America was encouraged by the independent monitoring made available to OHCHR and the independent human rights observers and it applauded the country's efforts on its national plan of action on trafficking in persons. It was, however, concerned by reports of abuse of detainees by police and military personnel, discrimination against women and girls, sex trafficking and forced labour and hazardous forms of child labour in agriculture and allegations of corruption.

52. Uruguay commended Papua New Guinea for its participative and cooperative process for drafting the national report. It was concerned about the increase in the number of crimes to be punishable by the death penalty and the official announcement of the restart of executions.

53. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela praised Papua New Guinea for ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and for legislation aimed at promoting the participation of women in public and political affairs, highlighting especially the election of 20 women at the local level. It highlighted the success of the policy of universal and free education at primary level.

54. Algeria welcomed the creation of sexual violence centres and family support centres. It commended Papua New Guinea on its efforts to provide free education, the advances in the area of children with disabilities, the ratification of the Convention on the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the elaboration of the National Disability Policy and encourage it to continue those efforts.

55. Argentina appreciated the normative and institutional initiatives adopted by Papua New Guinea to improve the situation of women and girls.

56. Australia commended Papua New Guinea on the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the implementation of its National Disability Policy. It encouraged Papua New Guinea to address concerns about juvenile detention in prisons and to prioritize maternal health and basic education. It welcomed the efforts of Papua New Guinea to address gender-based violence and acknowledged the endorsement of the National Action Plan against Sorcery- and Witchcraft-related Violence.

57. New Zealand commended Papua New Guinea for being the first country to formally submit its intended nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement. It noted that the commitment made during the first universal periodic review to have an operational national human rights institution by 2012 had not yet been met.

58. Chile noted the normative and institutional developments regarding human rights, highlighting the Family Protection Act, the Juvenile Justice Act and the Lukautim Pikinini (Child) (Amendment) Act.

59. China welcomed the efforts of Papua New Guinea in the areas of child protection, the juvenile justice system, the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy, the Family Protection Act, education and health-care services, the Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. China encouraged the international community to provide financial and technical support to Papua New Guinea.

60. Cuba acknowledged human rights advances in Papua New Guinea, such as the Family Protection Act, the Juvenile Justice Act, the Criminal Code (Amendment) Act 2013, the National Disability Policy, the Independent Commission against Corruption and the leadership of Papua New Guinea in the area of climate change during the twenty-first session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

61. The Czech Republic appreciated the informative presentation of Papua New Guinea, including the response to some of its advance questions.

62. Denmark commended Papua New Guinea for its constructive engagement in the universal periodic review process and for having demonstrated progress in the protection and promotion of human rights since its previous review. It hoped that Papua New Guinea would join the 159 current States Parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and offered assistance on that issue.

63. Egypt commended Papua New Guinea for the progress achieved in developing the Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons, the Criminal Code (Amendment) Act, the Civil Registry Act 2014 and the Papua New Guinea "Vision 2050" development plan. It was encouraged by the work aiming to establish a national human rights institution and an independent anti-corruption commission.

64. Fiji noted that, pursuant to the decision of the Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea, the detention of asylum seekers and refugees on Manus Island was illegal and unconstitutional, and persons detained there must be released. It commended the decision of Papua New Guinea to seek alternative arrangements for those detained in Manus Island. It congratulated Papua New Guinea on the Family Protection Act and the family support centres and sexual violence centres.

65. France welcomed the commitments made by Papua New Guinea in the field of human rights since its first universal periodic review in 2011.

66. Germany commended Papua New Guinea for the Family Protection Act and the abolition of a law against alleged witchcraft. It remained concerned about reports of torture incidents and extrajudicial killings and about the fact that women and children continued to be disproportionately affected by crime and acts of violence.

67. Ghana noted the progress of Papua New Guinea in human rights since the first review, including the establishment of the "human rights track" within the courts in 2013. It welcomed the efforts to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles and to ratify the Convention against Torture. It remained concerned about reports of sexual and physical assaults on women and girls even after the adoption of the Family Protection Act.

68. Guatemala took note of steps undertaken to promote, protect and fulfil the fundamental human rights of all persons.

69. Haiti welcomed the delegation of Papua New Guinea and took note of progress made in the area of human rights, notably with the Lukautim Pikinini (Child) (Amendment) Act.

70. The Holy See acknowledged efforts regarding the effective implementation of human rights, such as the adoption of the Family Protection Act, which criminalized domestic violence. It further noted the attention given to child safety through the Lukautim Pikinini (Child) (Amendment) Act, as well as the National Identity Project, which aimed at registering all citizens and providing them with birth certificates.

71. Honduras congratulated Papua New Guinea for its growing commitment in the defence of human rights and encouraged it to continue complying with its commitments. The recent derogation by Parliament of the Sorcery Act and the recent approval of different laws, such as the Family Protection Act, the Juvenile Justice Act and the Lukautim Pikinini (Child) (Amendment) Act were examples of such commitments.

72. Indonesia thanked Papua New Guinea for its continued engagement with the universal periodic review. It took note of some developments, in policy and practice, on the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. It also took note of the endorsement in 2015 of the National Action Plan against Sorcery- and Witchcraft-related Violence.

73. Ireland commended Papua New Guinea for the issuance of a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders. It encouraged the country to continue its engagement with international mechanisms by responding in a timely manner to the communications of special procedures and submitting all overdue reports to the treaty bodies. It remained concerned that corporal punishment was not prohibited in all settings and at the underresourcing and limited accessibility of schools for children living in rural areas.

74. Italy welcomed steps taken to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights since the first cycle of universal periodic review. It welcomed, in particular, measures aimed at increasing the protection of the rights of the child through the adoption of the Lukautim Pikinini (Child) (Amendment) Act and the progress made in the fight against corruption.

75. Jamaica noted that Papua New Guinea had worked with bilateral partners and international organizations, including OHCHR, to further commitments undertaken during its previous universal periodic review. It commended Papua New Guinea for its commitment to improving the quality of life of its citizens through legislative reform and targeted programmes.

76. Japan welcomed the positive contributions of Papua New Guinea to the improvement of human rights, including the regular holding of the country's Human Rights Forum in conjunction with the United Nations, efforts to follow up on the recommendations from the previous universal periodic review and the formulation of the National Disability Policy. Japan expressed concern at the serious situation of sexual violence and abuse against women and children.

77. Kyrgyzstan supported the steps to promote and protect human rights, in particular the legislative measures, such as adoption of Family Protection Act and the Lukautim Pikinini (Child) (Amendment) Act, cooperation with human rights special procedures and the continuation of work to establish institutional frameworks in the country.

78. Malaysia welcomed progress made, including in the areas of administration of justice, combating domestic violence and the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities. It was of the view that further attention should continue to be given to the empowerment of women, promotion of the right to health and the rights of indigenous peoples.

79. Maldives commended Papua New Guinea for its efforts at the national level to address the effects of climate change, including through the Climate Change (Management) Act 2015 and other initiatives. It welcomed the criminalization of gender-based violence, the mainstreaming of gender policies, the creation of sexual violence and family support centres, the repeal of the 1971 Sorcery Act and the National Action Plan against Sorcery- and Witchcraft-related Violence.

80. Mexico welcomed the adoption of legislation to protect the family and children and encouraged Papua New Guinea to continue making efforts for its implementation. It also welcomed the work initiated for the establishment of the national human rights institution and invited Papua New Guinea to ensure its compliance with the Paris Principles. It further commended efforts for the creation of a database on persons with disabilities with the support and cooperation of Australia and Japan.

81. Montenegro commended the commitment of Papua New Guinea to the advancement and protection of fundamental human rights principles and values. It welcomed the adoption of the Family Protection Act, which had established the legislative framework to combat violence against women. It encouraged Papua New Guinea to fully cooperate with the United Nations treaty bodies, including by regularly submitting initial and periodic reports.

82. Morocco welcomed efforts of Papua New Guinea since its first review to comply with the human rights commitments made. It noted with satisfaction the specific attention paid to policies and programmes, including the adoption of a national development plan, a plan on access to education for all, making basic health services accessible to all and the protection of the family and children.

83. Myanmar was pleased to note that Papua New Guinea had ratified six core human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It took note that Papua New Guinea had adopted the National Disability Policy.

84. Namibia welcomed the reforms of Papua New Guinea to harmonize its domestic legislation with international human rights instruments, including the adoption of the Family Protection Act. It also welcomed the National Policy on Child Protection, the Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Policy and the National Disability Policy. It expressed concern over reports that the Government intended to start implementing capital punishment in response to the high level of violence in the country.

85. The Netherlands appreciated that the Mid-Term Development Plan (2011-2015) had prioritized a number of key sectors, including primary and secondary education and access to water and sanitation, and that the Parliament had repealed the Sorcery Act.

86. Canada acknowledged the entry into force of the Family Protection Act in Papua New Guinea. Recognizing the law as an important tool, Canada encouraged Papua New Guinea to allocate the necessary resources for its full enforcement.

87. Norway noted that gender equality was one of the most effective drivers of economic development, fair distribution, peace and democracy. It also observed that the practice of illegal logging and land-grabbing represented a challenge both to the environment and the customary rights of landowners.

88. Pakistan welcomed the efforts of the Government to protect human rights. It noted the adoption of the Family Protection Act, which criminalized domestic violence, the Lukautim Pikinini (Child) (Amendment) Act and the Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies and judicial bodies.

89. Panama welcomed the adoption by Papua New Guinea of several policies, plans and programmes on gender and women's development, noting the national strategic plan for 2010-2050 and the country's commitment to implementing the recommendations received during the first cycle of the universal periodic review.

90. The Philippines welcomed efforts by Papua New Guinea to improve the juvenile justice system and strengthen child protection. It noted the adverse impact of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights and called on the international community to continue assisting the country as it pursued climate change mitigation.

91. Portugal welcomed the fact that no executions had taken place in Papua New Guinea since 1954. It commended Papua New Guinea for the adoption of the Family Protection Act, which criminalized domestic violence.

92. The Republic of Korea commended the progress of Papua New Guinea since the first universal periodic review. It noted with appreciation the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the issuance of a standing invitation to the special procedures and the enactment of the Family Protection Act, as well as the repeal of the Sorcery Act in 2013.

93. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines commended Papua New Guinea for the measures taken to improve the economic and social development of its people and for launching the National Small to Medium Enterprises Policy. It noted, in particular, the Government-funded national women's bank geared towards women in the informal sector.

94. Sierra Leone noted achievements, including the criminalization of domestic violence, the amending of the Criminal Code to criminalize acts of trafficking in persons, the adoption of the Lukautim Pikinini (Child) (Amendment) Act and institutional initiatives to address violence against women. It also appreciated the leading role of Papua New Guinea during negotiations on the Paris Agreement.

95. Slovenia commended Papua New Guinea for ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In noted that, despite legal and institutional developments to address violence against women, such as the Gender-based Violence National Strategy (2015-2050), it remained concerned that such developments did not translate adequately into practice and thus result in improved lives for women and girls.

96. Spain appreciated legal and institutional initiatives to improve the situation of women and girls. It welcomed the continued de facto moratorium on the death penalty and the adoption of measures to improve the living standards of the population.

97. Sweden welcomed measures adopted since the first universal periodic review, including the Family Protection Act criminalizing domestic violence, noting that gender-based violence was a serious problem in Papua New Guinea and that its rates of domestic and sexual violence remained among the highest in the world. It noted that more than 900 asylum seekers and refugees were being detained indefinitely in detention centres on Manus Island.

98. Switzerland welcomed progress made, noting that human rights violations remained numerous. It called on Papua New Guinea to take all measures at its disposal to protect every individual in the country from such violations. It expressed regret at the lack of implementation of certain recommendations accepted during the first cycle, including on ratification of the Convention against Torture.

99. Thailand welcomed the National Health Plan (2011-2020) and appreciated efforts to promote gender equality. It expressed the hope that the Government would address the negative impact on human rights of large-scale land acquisitions under the special agricultural business leases scheme and find equitable and sustainable solutions to that problem.

100. Timor-Leste commended Papua New Guinea for its National Disability Policy. It noted with appreciation the establishment of a juvenile justice system focusing on restorative justice as an alternative to imprisonment. It also highlighted efforts to promote children's rights.

101. Turkey commended steps taken to protect human rights through focused institutional policies and legal instruments, such as the Family Protection Act, the Lukautim Pikinini (Child) (Amendment) Act and the Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Policy. It also commended efforts to register all citizens and provide them with a birth certificate.

102. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland congratulated the Government for the Family Protection Act and encouraged it to develop a strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. It welcomed the commitment of Papua New Guinea to a number of international human rights obligations in the framework of its action plan and expressed the hope that there would be progress on legislative changes.

103. Brazil acknowledged the actions of Papua New Guinea regarding the fight against HIV/AIDS, particularly the positive results of the HIV/AIDS Management and Prevention Act. Brazil appreciated advances regarding the rights of the child, in particular the Lukautim Pikinini (Child) (Amendment) Act, and the creation of a specialized court and police unit in that regard. It nonetheless considered that additional steps were needed for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

104. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below will be examined by Papua New Guinea, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-third session of the Human Rights Council in September 2016:**

104.1 **Consider the ratification of all core human rights conventions (Egypt);**

104.2 **Ratify and implement other international human rights treaties and their protocols, as previously recommended (Slovenia);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

104.3 **Consider ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with a view to abolish the death penalty (Namibia);**

104.4 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro); ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal);**

104.5 **Intensify its efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

104.6 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Czech Republic) (Denmark) (France) (Ghana) (Guatemala) (Honduras) (Italy) (Timor-Leste) (Montenegro) (Panama) (Portugal) (Uruguay); accede to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Turkey);**

104.7 **Ratify the core international human rights instruments including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Sierra Leone);**

104.8 **Envisage the ratification of treaties and other international instruments relating to human rights which Papua New Guinea has not done so yet, notably the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Morocco);**

104.9 **Continue to strengthen its legal framework through expediting the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In this regard, Indonesia together with the core group of the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI) stands ready to support Papua New Guinea in this ratification process (Indonesia);**

104.10 **Make every possible effort to proceed with the early conclusion of important international human rights treaties in particular the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Japan);**

104.11 **Ratify and implement the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as previously recommended (Slovenia);**

104.12 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Czech Republic) (Italy) (Ghana) (Guatemala) (Honduras) (Portugal); accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Turkey);**

104.13 **Intensify its efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

104.14 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establish a national preventive mechanism providing for periodic visits to all places of detention (Uruguay); ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment to establish a national preventive mechanism that provides for regular visits to all places of detention (Panama);**

104.15 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Guatemala) (Uruguay);**

104.16 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Guatemala) (Uruguay);**

104.17 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines);**

104.18 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana) (Guatemala) (Honduras); accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Turkey);**

104.19 **Ratify the core international human rights instruments including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sierra Leone);**

104.20 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Ghana);**

104.21 **Consider ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Philippines);**

104.22 **Intensify its efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Chile);**

104.23 **Consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and other international instruments to which the country is not a party (Argentina);**

104.24 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ghana) (Italy); accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Turkey);**

104.25 **Make every possible effort to proceed with the early conclusion of important international human rights treaties in particular the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Japan);**

104.26 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France) (Ghana); ratify the core international human rights instruments including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone);**

104.27 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

104.28 **Considering ratifying the International Labour Organization Convention No. 189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (Philippines);**

104.29 **Ratify the Rome Statue of the International Criminal Court (Czech Republic) (Honduras) (Switzerland);**

104.30 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and cooperate fully with it (Guatemala);**

104.31 **Continue to strengthen the existing legal framework and deepen measures aimed at preventing gender-based violence (Argentina);**

104.32 **End impunity for trafficking by enforcing provisions in the Criminal Code Amendment of 2013 (United States of America);**

104.33 **Define torture as a serious offence, punishable by sanctions commensurate with the gravity of the torture, and ensure that no statement obtained by torture is invoked as evidence in any proceedings (Uruguay);**

104.34 **Include penalization of sexual harassment in its national legislation (Portugal);**

104.35 **Take without further delay all necessary steps to establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles and return support to the Ombudsman Commission (New Zealand);**

104.36 **Take action to progress its commitment to establish a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Australia);**

104.37 **Take all the necessary measures for the prompt establishment of an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (France);**

104.38 **Establish an independent National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Egypt);**

104.39 **Establish and support a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (Honduras);**

104.40 **Continue efforts to establish an independent National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) in accordance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);**

104.41 **Complete the process of establishment of a national human rights institution (Kyrgyzstan);**

104.42 **Finalize the establishment of a national human rights institution, that is independent and empowered to provide national leadership and monitoring of the domestic human rights situation (Maldives);**

104.43 **Take action to establish a National Human Rights Institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Netherlands);**

104.44 **Establish promptly a national human rights institution, in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Portugal);**

104.45 **Step up the process of establishment of the country's national human rights institution that is compliant with the Paris Principles (Philippines);**

104.46 **Establish the National Human Rights Institution as endorsed by the National Executive Council in 1997, and recommended in the universal periodic review in 2011 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

104.47 **Continue and enhance efforts to establish its National Human Rights Commission, with a view to completing and strengthening the country's legal and institutional framework related to human rights (Brazil);**

104.48 **Provide the Ombudsman Commission with the resources necessary to freely and effectively combat government corruption and police abuses (United States of America);**

104.49 **Continue efforts to strengthen protection mechanisms, including considering the establishment of victim and witness protection agency (Indonesia);**

104.50 **Continue to strengthen its programmes and policies in the area of economic, social and cultural rights, in order to increase the quality of life of its people, in particular the most vulnerable sectors of the population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

104.51 **Reinforce policies that favour access to education for rural population (Holy See);**

104.52 **Continue to strengthen the programmes for gender equity and social inclusion of women (Chile);**

104.53 **Implement the national strategy to prevent and respond to gender based violence (China);**

104.54 **Create social programmes to assist children engaged in the worst forms of child labor, particularly in commercial sexual exploitation (United States of America);**

104.55 **Adopt an approach based on respect for traditional societal norms as the basis for human rights education and sensitization (Jamaica);**

104.56 **Increase efforts to submit pending reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Uruguay);**

104.57 **Strengthen its internal human rights capacity and mechanisms to ensure timely cooperation with treaty bodies, in particular fulfilling its reporting obligations under treaty bodies (Czech Republic);**

104.58 **Develop a core common document which serves to implement specific measures to ensure compliance with its reporting obligations to human rights treaty bodies (Panama);**

104.59 **Fulfil its reporting obligations under treaty bodies (Turkey);**

104.60 **Submit its overdue reports to the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Rights of the Child; the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Sierra Leone);**

104.61 **Amend the Constitution so as to define and explicitly prohibit discrimination (Spain);**

104.62 **Launch a comprehensive awareness-raising campaign to educate and change societal attitude, particularly those that place women in a lower status than men (Slovenia);**

104.63 **Repeal any remaining laws and regulations that discriminate against women and girls, and to ensure that these laws are in compliance with human rights obligations and commitments (Norway);**

104.64 **Repeal remaining laws and regulations that discriminate against women and girls or amend them in line with international human rights standards (Netherlands);**

104.65 **Continue and intensify measures to improve gender equality in the country (Cuba);**

104.66 **Adopt a quota system or any other type of temporary measure for women to guarantee equal rights between men and women (Spain);**

104.67 **Continue to improve the representation of women in Parliament at both national and local levels (New Zealand);**

104.68 **Take active measures to ensure full and effective participation of women at all levels of public and political life (Namibia);**

104.69 **Strengthen relevant provisions for the promotion of women's rights, notably for their participation in political life (Morocco);**

104.70 **Facilitate access to girls and boys to schools, particularly in rural areas (Mexico);**

104.71 **Continue to put in place policies and programmes aimed at eliminating all discrimination against women and achieving gender equality, including active promotion of higher education for women and improving the number of women holding decision-making positions in public and private sectors (Malaysia);**

104.72 **Launch awareness-raising campaigns focusing on women's rights (Timor-Leste);**

104.73 **Continue initiatives such as the National Women's Bank which have given women income earning opportunities and access to banking services (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines);**

104.74 **Improve further the registration system and support it by awareness-raising activities, in order to sustain the rise in registration numbers (Turkey);**

104.75 **Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex and amend national legislation to include sexual orientation and gender as prohibited grounds for discrimination (New Zealand);**

104.76 **Take measures to prevent violence and discrimination against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);**

104.77 **Take all the necessary measures to decriminalize sexual relations between consenting same-sex adults and take additional measures to combat discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (France);**

104.78 **Decriminalize all same-sex relations between consenting adults by repealing all relevant provisions of the Criminal Code (Slovenia);**

104.79 **Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex and amend national legislation to include sexual orientation as prohibited grounds for discrimination (Sweden);**

104.80 **Confirm the non-resumption of executions and the de facto moratorium on the death penalty, and to take all the necessary measures for the final de jure abolition of the death penalty (France);**

104.81 **Repeal all provisions in domestic law allowing for the death penalty and establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (New Zealand);**

104.82 **Repeal the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Panama);**

104.83 **Repeal all provisions in domestic law allowing for the death penalty, and to establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Norway);**

104.84 **Step up the efforts to abolish death penalty (Philippines);**

104.85 **Abolish the death penalty and establish a moratorium on executions as a first step towards abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);**

104.86 **Abolish the death penalty by means of the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Spain);**

104.87 **Maintain its moratorium on death sentences and take the necessary steps for the abolishment of the death penalty, including the ratification of the Second**

Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Turkey);

104.88 **Commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment (Norway);**

104.89 **Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**

104.90 **Maintain the moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to abolishing it (Holy See);**

104.91 **Maintain the moratorium on capital executions and to consider the full abolition of the death penalty (Italy);**

104.92 **Ensure that conditions of detention are in conformity with United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Canada);**

104.93 **Undertake effective measures to combat poor detention conditions (Algeria);**

104.94 **Take further measures and strengthen its legislation to prevent and punish all forms of violence against women and girls (Turkey);**

104.95 **Put in place a comprehensive political strategy and develop specific legislation aimed at eliminating violence and discrimination against women, in accordance with the Convention on the Eliminations of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Brazil);**

104.96 **Step up efforts for the implementation of an appropriate legal framework for the protection of women and girls from all forms of gender-based violence (Honduras);**

104.97 **Enact further measures in order to address gender-based violence and achieve gender equality, including by increasing participation of women in decision-making (Slovenia);**

104.98 **Take additional measures to fight effectively against discrimination and violence against women (France);**

104.99 **Implement the Family Protection Act and finalize the Family and Sexual Violence Strategy without delay (Australia);**

104.100 **Implement fully and rapidly the Family Protection Act of 2013 in order to reduce domestic violence effectively (Switzerland);**

104.101 **Fully enforce the 2013 Family Protection Act, which criminalizes domestic and sexual violence and gives the police the power to arrest and prosecute perpetrators, as a matter of priority (Republic of Korea);**

104.102 **Promptly follow-up on the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and ensure early enforcement of the Family Protection Act (Japan);**

104.103 **Take a holistic and effective approach to tackle gender-based violence, including by strengthening accountability mechanisms; raising awareness on gender-based violence, in particular, violence related to sorcery accusations; and allocating sufficient budget to support relevant programmes (Republic of Korea);**

104.104 **Take concrete measures to protect women, who remain marginalized, discriminated against and at the high risk of being subjected to violence (Pakistan);**

104.105 **Take additional measures to achieve the gender equality, including specific measures to eliminate domestic and sexual violence (Kyrgyzstan);**

104.106 **Increase human and financial investments to support effective implementation of National Policies for Women and Gender Equality and Child Protection (Kyrgyzstan);**

104.107 **Fully implement the Family Protection Act (Norway);**

104.108 **Intensify its efforts to combat domestic violence by effectively implementing its laws, particularly the Family Protection Act (2013), improving access to justice, providing adequate support for victims and raising awareness of women's rights (Thailand);**

104.109 **Strengthen the measures and norms necessary for the full implementation of the Law on the Protection of the Family, explicitly sanctioning the corporal punishment of children (Chile);**

104.110 **Focus on eliminating violence and creating safe places for victims of gender-based, sorcery related, and sexual violence (New Zealand);**

104.111 **Strengthen efforts to effectively implement and enforce the Family Protection Act and other measures against domestic violence and initiate an awareness-raising campaign against this form of violence (Czech Republic);**

104.112 **Ensure the effective implementation of the Family Protection Act including through investigations and prosecutions of perpetrators of violence against women (Ghana);**

104.113 **Implement the Sorcery and Witchcraft Accusation National Action Plan without delay (Australia);**

104.114 **Implement the National Action Plan to address violence related to accusations of sorcery, including by ensuring adequate funding (Germany);**

104.115 **Adopt measures that all cases of violence against women, including sorcery-related and sexual violence are duly investigated and the perpetrators prosecuted and punished, and to ensure a wide availability of assistance and protection programmes for the victims (Czech Republic);**

104.116 **Continue to take steps to implement the Family Protection Act 2013 by training police officers and judges on its provisions (Fiji);**

104.117 **Take all measures necessary to implement and effectively enforce the Family Protection Act, and strengthen the efforts to protect women and children from violence, in the families as well as when within the hands of the governments institutions (Germany);**

104.118 **Consider, in partnership with civil society and women's groups, a better access to support centres, psycho-social and legal services, as well as other services for victims of domestic violence, including in rural areas (Haiti);**

104.119 **Reduce violence among schoolchildren, combining targeted research with social and community activism (Haiti);**

104.120 **Continue with its efforts to combat violence against women and children, especially domestic violence and violence related to accusations of sorcery (Holy See);**

104.121 **Further combat gender-based violence and violence linked with sorcery by strengthening, in partnership with civil society and relevant United Nations entities, the mechanism of application of the principle of responsibility (Haiti);**

104.122 **Implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, particularly those pertaining to domestic violence and violence related to sorcery accusations; take all necessary steps to fully implement the Sorcery National Action Plan; ensure the investigation of incidents of sorcery related violence and prosecution of alleged perpetrators; and provide adequate shelter, psycho-social, legal and other services for survivors of gender-based violence, including in rural areas (Ireland);**

104.123 **Reinforce the legal framework for the prevention of violence against women, including by running a national awareness campaign, by creating safe places for victims of gender-based violence, and by ensuring that cases of domestic violence and sorcery-related violence, are comprehensively investigated and prosecuted (Italy);**

104.124 **Ensure access to adequate shelter, psychosocial, legal, and health-care services for survivors of domestic violence, including in rural areas (Canada);**

104.125 **Continue efforts undertaken in the promotion of the rights of the Child and, in this regard, to encourage to ratify the two Optional Protocols to the Convention of the Rights of the Child (France);**

104.126 **Repeal article 278 of the Criminal Code and prohibit corporal punishment in all settings including the home; and improve the accessibility and resourcing of education to all communities, especially those located in remote areas (Ireland);**

104.127 **Work closely with the Autonomous Government of Bougainville to secure a transitional justice process without human rights violations (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

104.128 **Investigate all complaints of torture and other ill-treatment, extrajudicial killings, and sexual violence committed by the security forces and bring those responsible to justice (Germany);**

104.129 **Step up its efforts to strengthen the capacity of the police in terms of both number of officers and quality of duty performed, with a view to preventing and eliminating abuses, corruption and excessive use of force by police officers (Republic of Korea);**

104.130 **Thoroughly investigate allegations of excessive use of force by police officers, and in this vein, ensure that law enforcement officials have the appropriate human rights training (Sierra Leone);**

104.131 **Carry out impartial and independent investigations of all allegations of excessive use of force and violations carried out by representatives of the security forces, in particular in cases related to communal land rights, and bring perpetrators of such violations to justice (Switzerland);**

104.132 **Implement fully the Family Protection Act from 2013, to ensure that police and prosecutors treat gender-based violence, including within the family, as criminal matters, and to adopt a comprehensive national action plan to combat sexual and gender-based violence, including raising general awareness through education and training, develop official and credible statistics, and ensuring access to justice for victims (Sweden);**

104.133 **Ensure that the Family Protection Act is implemented, including by establishing clear policies requiring authorities in all regions to investigate fully cases of family violence and violent attacks against persons alleged to be sorcerers, and by ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice (Canada);**

104.134 **Take steps to investigate all reports of gender-based violence, including accusations of sorcery, that perpetrators are brought to justice in fair trials, and that victims receive reparation and are given access to healthcare and other relevant services (Norway);**

104.135 **As part of ongoing justice reform, elaborate use of force provisions that include accountability for private security firms (Jamaica);**

104.136 **Fully investigate all complaints of violence perpetrated or facilitated by the security forces, and ensure that suspects are brought before the Courts in a timely manner (New Zealand);**

104.137 **Implement the Supreme Court's decision without undue delay and in accordance with the primacy of the human rights of those detained, as guaranteed under the Constitution of Papua New Guinea (Fiji);**

104.138 **Continue to provide human rights training to law enforcement officials and ensure accountability of those who commit human rights violations and criminal offenses (Malaysia);**

104.139 **Train public servants in the human rights responsibilities and obligations of Governing structures (Maldives);**

104.140 **Improve access to drinking water and sanitation in rural areas and urban settlements as well as in key areas such as schools in order to bring about the realization of the right to drinking water and the right to sanitation (Spain);**

104.141 **Improve health care and reduce infant and young child mortality (China);**

104.142 **Continue the scaled up efforts in all parts of the country to address and contain HIV/AIDS which has been one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines);**

104.143 **Make a concerted effort to treat higher percentage of persons living with HIV, building on its existing success and with appropriate assistance from international and regional partners (Jamaica);**

104.144 **Provide access to basic services such as health, education and justice to populations living in remote areas (Pakistan);**

104.145 **Effectively implement as soon as possible the promising and necessary law on mental health of 2015 (Spain);**

104.146 **Continue to improve access to health care and raise awareness of reproductive health for women, children, youth, as well as migrants and asylum seekers in order to decrease maternal, child and infant mortality (Thailand);**

104.147 **Step up efforts to improve literacy rates among its population, focusing on women and girls, notably in the rural area (Haiti);**

104.148 **Implement effective measures to reduce the discrimination against women, including access to health, education, social welfare, justice and administrative services (Honduras);**

104.149 **Continue its efforts to achieve its goals of universal education, gender empowerment and free education (Pakistan);**

104.150 **Take practical steps to implement fully the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at both the federal and state levels to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy equal rights and opportunities in Papua New Guinea, including by creating a database to guide policy planning and provision of services (Canada);**

104.151 Further strengthen the national endeavours in promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Myanmar);

104.152 Take measures to guarantee full respect of human rights to indigenous peoples, in particular through the establishment of mechanisms for their prior and informed consent on issues that affect them (Mexico);

104.153 Review the state policy that affects indigenous lands, known as the "Plan of Agricultural and Industrial Leases" regarding non-indigenous companies, reinforcing the work of the Commission of Inquiry that has found irregularities in many of the leases investigated (Chile);

104.154 Take appropriate measures to prevent land grabbing and illegal logging and ensure that future actions are based on a respect for fundamental human rights and environmental protection (Norway);

104.155 Take more effective measures to guarantee that large-scale projects respect environmental standards (Algeria);

104.156 Continue to take into account, in the implementation of Vision 2050 and other development plans, the improvement, conservation and protection of the environment (Cuba);

104.157 Implement the accepted recommendations from the first universal periodic review of increasing the oversight of extracting and logging industries as well as related enterprises and businesses, with a view to mitigating the adverse human rights effects on affected populations and reducing its negative impact in the environment establishing more rigorous and transparent measures (Guatemala);

104.158 Dedicate more resources to ensuring access to basic facilities to indigenous peoples including clean water, healthcare and education (Malaysia);

104.159 Review legal provisions relating to the detention of migrants and asylum seekers with a view to guaranteeing the protection and promotion of their human rights, and the strict compliance with applicable international norms (Mexico);

104.160 Continue efforts to address cross border issues, including by strengthening the work of Indonesia — PNG Joint Border Committee, based on mutual respect (Indonesia);

104.161 Take promptly effective measures to safeguard the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers in Papua New Guinea and end indefinite mandatory detention of asylum seekers (Sweden).

105. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Papua New Guinea was headed by S.E. Mr. Fred Sarufa, Chargé d'Affaires, Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Patrick Niebo, Head of Human Rights and Discrimination, Ombudsman Commission;
- Ms. Blanche Vitata, Principal Legal Officer, Department of Justice and Attorney General;
- Ms. Farapo Korere, Senior Foreign Service Officer, International organization Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs.